

VIA MARSEILLES.]

The London and China Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSAGERIES AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA JAPAN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS." A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

VOL. XIX.—No. 747.]

MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1877.

[Price 9d.—Subscription, £2 2s.
per annum, Postage included.

Latest Advices.

Port	OUTWARD.		HOMeward.	
	From London.	Arrived out.	Received Dec. 19.	
JAPAN—Yokohama	Sept. 14	Oct. 30	Nov. 6	Per Messageries Maritimes steamer <i>Amazone</i> , from Marseilles, Jan. 13.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Hitch, Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. A. B. Rex.—To Hong Kong: Mrs. Lord. To Colombo: Mr. F. W. Bois.
Edo	—	—	“ 1	Per Messageries Maritimes steamer <i>Andayr</i> , from Marseilles, Jan. 27.—To Hong Kong: Mr. W. M. Deane. To Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. Uttermarch. To Colombo Mr. and Mrs. Dick.
Osaka and Hiogo	—	—	“ 3	Per Messageries Maritimes steamer <i>Peikin</i> , from Marseilles, Feb. 10.—To Singapore: Mr. Mrs., and Miss McNair, Mr. Hinnekindt, Mrs. Scott.
Hakodadi	—	—	“ 3	Per steamer <i>Ajaz</i> (Holt's line), from Liverpool, Dec. 19.—To Singapore: Mrs. Clarke and family, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Leisk, Mr. Anderson.
Nagasaki	—	—	“ 3	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. R. M. Macdougall, Mrs. Seaward and child. To Shanghai: The Rev. G. Cockburn, Mr. Thos. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen. To Yokohama: Mr. Ernest Grob.
CHINA—Peking	—	—	“ 3	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. William Scott, Mr. Alex. Grant and family, Miss M. A. Piercy.
Tientsin	—	—	“ 3	—
Chooee	—	—	“ 3	—
New-chwang	—	—	“ 3	—
Hankow	—	—	“ 3	—
Kiu-kiang	—	—	“ 3	—
Chin-kiang	—	—	“ 3	—
Shanghai	—	“ 21	Nov. 8	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. R. M. Macdougall, Mrs. Seaward and child. To Shanghai: The Rev. G. Cockburn, Mr. Thos. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen. To Yokohama: Mr. Ernest Grob.
Ningpo	—	—	“ 8	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. R. M. Macdougall, Mrs. Seaward and child. To Shanghai: The Rev. G. Cockburn, Mr. Thos. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen. To Yokohama: Mr. Ernest Grob.
Foochow	—	—	“ 8	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. R. M. Macdougall, Mrs. Seaward and child. To Shanghai: The Rev. G. Cockburn, Mr. Thos. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen. To Yokohama: Mr. Ernest Grob.
Formosa	—	—	“ 8	Per steamer <i>Glenroy</i> , from London, Dec. 24.—To Singapore: Mr. R. M. Macdougall, Mrs. Seaward and child. To Shanghai: The Rev. G. Cockburn, Mr. Thos. Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Ewen. To Yokohama: Mr. Ernest Grob.
Amoy	—	—	“ 11	—
Swatow	—	—	“ 12	—
Hong Kong	“ 28	“ 4	“ 15	—
Canton	—	—	“ 13	—
Macao	—	—	“ 14	—
PHILIPPINES—Manila	“ 14	Oct. 23	“ 4	—
COCHIN-CHINA—Saigon	—	—	“ 18	—
SIAM—Bangkok	—	—	—	—
BORNEO—Labuan	—	—	“ 6	—
Sarawak	—	—	“ 12	—
JAVA—Batavia	—	—	“ 16	—
Samrang	—	—	“ 9	—
Reorbaya	—	—	“ 11	—
MALACCA STRAITS—Singapore	Oct. 19	Nov. 18	“ 23	—
Penang	“ 12	“ 9	“ 17	—
CEYLON—Galle	Nov. 8	“ 27	“ 28	—
Colombo	—	—	“ 26	—

THE MAILS, &c.

The French mail, with the advices dated as above, was delivered via Marseilles as the 19th inst. There are no later Japan advices, via San Francisco. The next (P. and O.) mail, from Yokohama 13th, Shanghai 16th, Hong Kong 22nd, Singapore 29th Nov., is due, via Brindisi, on Monday next, the 31st inst.

The lines of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company and the Great Northern Telegraph Company are working satisfactorily.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Marseilles, per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Amazone*, arrived Dec. 17.—From Yokohama: Messrs. Baton, Mourrier, Ottolini, Moretti, Gauvain, Civetta, Ragnoli, Biffi, Ferreri. From Shanghai: Messrs. De Sonbreuil, Malcolini, Rider, Taylor, Cromlen, Cameron, Nicolas, Massey. From Hong Kong: Messrs. Gepp, Dernier, Altam, Blum, Doose, Haight, Lee, Vidal, Yavonovich, Mr. and Mrs. Klitriek. From Saigon: Mr. and Mrs. Champy, Mr. and Miss Andrieux, Mr. Canefort. From Batavia: Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm, Mr. and Mrs. De Greef, Mr. and Mrs. Willenstein, Mr. and Mrs. Camperiere, Mrs. Lorren, Miss Hill. From Singapore: Mr. and Mrs. Adamson, Mr. Christie, Mr. Lamas, Mr. Manger, Mrs. Smith.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per P. and O. steamer *Khadie*, from Southampton, Dec. 13.—To Shanghai: Mr. J. Green. To Hong Kong: Surg. D. MacIver, Mr. Blandy, Mr. Pollock, Mr. A. G. Angier, Mr. W. H. Tozer, Mr. Ryrie. To Colombo: Mr. W. H. Graham.

Per P. and O. steamer *Hyades*, from Southampton, Dec. 27.—To Singapore: Mrs. Deane and two children, Miss Kemp. To Hong Kong: Mr. J. Collins, Mr. G. T. Loveday. To Yokohama: Mrs. Hill.

Per P. and O. steamer *Surat*, from Southampton, Jan. 10.—To Penang: Mrs. K. L. Christiansen.

Per P. and O. steamer *Poona*, from Southampton, Jan. 24.—To Singapore: Mrs. M. Martin and infant. From Suez, to Ceylon: Major and Mrs. Caulfield.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Ara*, from Marseilles, Dec. 30.—To Yokohama: M. Le Comte de Diesbach. To Hong Kong: Mr. Soller. To Batavia: Mr. D. D. Fraser. To Singapore: Sir Thos. Sidgreaves. To Colombo: Mr. A. Y. Buchanan.

Per Messageries Maritimes steamer *Amazone*, from Marseilles, Jan. 13.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Hitch, Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. A. B. Rex.—To Hong Kong: Mrs. Lord. To Colombo: Mr. F. W. Bois.

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Summary of News from the Far East.

CHINA.

PEKING.

The *North China Herald* gives the following items of news from the capital, as recorded in the *Peking Gazette*:

Moved apparently by the representations which have been made to him of the extent of the misery in Shansi, and of the rapacity of the official underlings engaged in distributing grain, the Emperor has appointed a high official, named Yeu Kenning, formerly a Vice-President of the Board of Works at Peking, to travel "throughout the afflicted region, and to superintend with all due diligence the administration of the relief agencies. The *Gazette* of Oct. 15 also publishes an Imperial decree ordering a further contribution to Shansi of 160,000 piculs from the quota of tribute rice due by the province of Shantung.

The *Gazette* of Oct. 16 contains a memorial from the Governor of Shantung, reporting the miserably inadequate provision made last winter for the relief of the distress in that province; and the suffering and loss of life entailed.

If the Chinese officials and literati had intelligence to appreciate the fact, they would find in a memorial from Hangchow, in the *Peking Gazette* of Oct. 13, a proof of the advantage of foreign trade to the country. The Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory memorialises, representing the impracticability of the old tariff of rates at which silk used to be bought for the supply of the Palace. "Not only has production been largely diminished since the rebellion, but two new elements—viz., the imposition of the lekin tax and the foreign demand for raw silk, have come in to enhance the market value"—and, of course, in the latter case, increase the earnings and prosperity of the producers.

The *Peking Gazette* of Oct. 13 contains another of the decrees with which use has lately made us tolerably familiar, forbidding the cultivation of the poppy. The last one appeared in the *Gazette* of Sept. 26, 1876, and was to precisely the same effect as the present. That it and its predecessor should have been perfectly inoperative is a tolerably clear proof that the Government has either not the will or not the power to put in practice the prohibition which it utters. As a matter of fact, we believe Shantung produces nearly as much opium as Indore, and the failure of the crop there, this year, has had nearly as much to do with the recent rise in price as any shortcoming in India. Indeed, it is generally understood to be Li Hung-chang's policy to foster the cultivation of native opium, like he fosters the C.M.S.N. Company, in the hope of eventually driving out the foreign article. Only a few weeks ago there appeared in the *Gazette* an edict degrading an official in Kweichow for misappropriating some thousand taels of lekin on native opium—thus distinctly recognising it as legal and taxworthy—a proceeding which is now condemned. We commend these facts to the Anti-Opium Association.

NANKING.

The *Courier's* correspondent writes as follows, under date of Oct. 29:—

Some days ago the zealous defenders of law and order discovered that some people were actually killing the ox that ploughs the ground, and using his flesh for food. Beef went out of the market for a time, but a proper sum of cash made matters right for a day or two, till the Viceroy concluded it was best to pray for rain. He has occupied a great deal of time in this way since he came to Nanking, but drought and grasshoppers will come notwithstanding.

The crops during the past year have been fair. The remarkably heavy rains during the summer checked the ravages of the grasshoppers, but they are spread over the country, and will be ready by next spring to resume operations on a large scale. I have recently heard through native sources from the Yellow river region, and find that grasshoppers have ravaged certain sections, but that most of the people in the districts through which my informant has passed are not in any danger of immediate distress. He had not been as far north-west as Shensi, but has heard of gloomy prospects there.

A large number of disreputable houses were suppressed a few weeks ago, and the gamblers have since received some attention. One who was brought in from the country last week took opium in a yamen, but foreign assistance being promptly called in he recovered. Opium poisoning seems to be on the increase, whatever the cause may be. The great topic of interest just now is the opium question. Within the last three or four days opium-smokers have discovered that there has been a sudden advance in the price of the drug. I have heard that the increase in price is as much as 40 per cent., but do not know. There are many conjectures as to the cause, and wherever a foreigner appears he is promptly questioned about the matter.

FOOCHOW.

The *Foochow Herald* gives the following:—

At a meeting held at the Foochow Club on the evening of Oct. 22, a committee was formed, with power to frame rules and bye-laws, in addition to preparing an estimate of preliminary and other expenses for the current year.

It is rumoured amongst the Chinese that, in consequence of numerous national calamities of late, such as famine, floods, and pestilence, the youthful Emperor has been solicited to change his dynastic title, and thereby appease the wrath of the gods, who, it is argued, must be displeased with the reigning title of his Celestial Majesty.

The Tartar Camp will be available for training for the winter meeting from Nov. 2, having been kindly placed at the service of the Race Club by the Governor-General and Acting Manchu General-in-Chief. As the races are not expected to take place before the first or second week in January, ample time for preparation is provided. An unusual number of griffins are, we believe, expected.

We understand that the six gunboats of the *Alpha* class, at present attached to the Mamoi Arsenal Fleet, went out for gun practice on the 31st ult. Hitherto the crews have not had many opportunities of distinguishing themselves as marine artillerists; we trust, however, that their newborn activity will not result in any fatal accident. These 38-ton guns really require very careful handling, and the directors of the "infant navy" do not apparently believe in modern surgery or surgical appliances.

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to Nov. 9; the French mail from London, Sept. 21, was received Nov. 8.

It rarely happens that the local papers in the model Settlement are prepared to admit that the races have been anything but a success. The exhilarating effects of the fresh air, the geniality of those they meet at the Grand Stand, and the well-known hospitality always prevalent, have usually the effect of putting the editors into excellent humour, and slight shortcomings are consequently as a rule passed over very easily, and are not taken as being of any great account. It may, therefore, be safely concluded that it was disappointing, indeed, when we find the leading paper declaring, as we do find it by the present mail—"Our great Autumn holiday has proved a lamentable failure." It seems that the Fates were against it altogether. The weather was simply execrable during the whole period of the races; making things miserable for the spectators, and spoiling sport, by converting the course into a quagmire. Very good racing had been expected, and the time made under the actual circumstances proved that the anticipation was warranted; though of course the results of the running were materially altered. Those who took the opportunity of the holiday to make a trip up country, were even more unfortunate than they who remained at home; the incessant rain making everything wet and miserable, and destroying all pleasure in shooting. The steeplechase was necessarily postponed, as the course was simply a sheet of water.

This may in part account for the papers by the present mail having a more business-like appearance than is usual during race-

week, even in these days when the races have long ceased to occupy the prominent place they had formerly in the round of Shanghai life. The *North China Daily News* notices the China Loan, and after giving the particulars, which have already been published in our columns, goes on to say:—

Bonds on the Customs revenues of these ports, to the amount of Tls. 7,000,000, have been deposited with the Bank as security; and the Imperial Government has further fully guaranteed the loan. The last of the necessary documents having been received, the Taoutai Hu, through whom the negotiations have been carried on, was duly notified that the money was at his disposal. He began removing the sycee accordingly on the following day, and has already taken about Tls. 3,000,000. It is said, however, that only about thirty-five lakhs are likely to be shipped away from Shanghai, and the process is likely to extend over a month; so that there is certainly no immediate fear of tightness in the money market. So much as regards the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and the Imperial Government. As regards placing the Loan, the rate of issue will probably be £98 per £100 bond, which will bear interest at the rate of £8 per cent. per annum; and the bonds will probably be offered to the public in about a month or six weeks from the present date.

From the above-named paper we also take the following:—

At H.B.M.'s Supreme Court, on Monday, before R. A. Mowat, Esq., Deputy Acting Judge, Messrs. J. M. Canny and Co., late of Shanghai and Chinkeang, were adjudicated bankrupts, on the petition of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Mr. Rennie appeared to support the petition. The debtor did not appear, and had filed no notice of his intention to dispute the petition, a copy of which had been served upon him in England. Another petition, in the same matter, was adjourned.

By a decree of the Court of the United States Consulate-General, the stern-wheel steamer *Paokong* has been offered for sale at public auction, by the Marshal, Mr. R. Phoenix. The highest bid was by Mr. Galles, of Messrs. Farnham and Co., for Tls. 20,000.

The pontoon known as the Paou-fong Wharf, on the French Bund was submitted to sale by auction, under a decree of the Court of the United States Consulate-General. The bidding commenced at Tls. 500, and advanced in small amounts to Tls. 1,005, at which sum the pontoon was knocked down. Mr. Seabrooke was the purchaser, and, it was said, was acting on behalf of Mr. A. Malcolm, to satisfy whose claim the sale took place.

Another case of abduction occurred in this Settlement. It seems that a girl about sixteen years of age, of respectable parentage, and belonging to a place known as Ching-tu, about sixty li distant, was visiting some friends in Shanghai. She became acquainted with a man surnamed Wang, who induced her to take a drive with him, saying he would take her to see the races. Wang, however, seemed to have laid his plans very carefully, for, instead of taking the girl to the races, he drove by the French road to Siccawei, and to the bank of the Soochow Creek, at a point where a boat lay moored. The poor girl, it is said, was forced on board, the boat was cast loose and started up the creek. All efforts have as yet failed to discover her whereabouts.

To the list of casualties which have already occurred through the inconvenient position of the opium hulks, another has been added; and, although not attended with any serious results, it is worthy of mention as an additional straw to the load of reasons for some practical action to be taken upon the correspondence that has recently passed between the Municipal Council, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Commissioner of Customs, as to the removal of the hulks. Between ten and twelve o'clock on the morning of Nov. 7 four steamers were signalled to arrive—the *Peking* and *Haean* from Ningpo, and the *Kiangching* and *Shanghai* from Hankow—all of which had to berth in the upper portion of the river. The *Peking* arrived first, and just at the time the *Juno* and the English and French mail steamers were directly athwart the river, swinging to the tide. There appeared scarcely room for the *Peking* to pass between them and the unsightly opium hulks; but not far behind her were the *Haesan* and the *Kiangching*, and had she waited it would, of course, have involved delay, and perhaps placed her followers in an awkward predicament. However, she continued on her course, and the result was that her starboard paddle-box was stove in by coming in contact with the hulk *Emily Jane*, and several cargo boats narrowly escaped being swamped. Fortunately, when the *Haesan* and the *Kiangching* came up, the mail steamers had swung further round, and they passed clear, as did also the *Shanghai*. But, as is well known, there is always danger of collision at this point at every turn of the tide; and we can only repeat what we have so often urged, that the removal of the opium hulks would not only rid the Bund of an eyesore, but also remove a great part of the danger and difficulty of berthing vessels of any kind in the upper reaches of the river.

A curious circumstance, arising no doubt out of the late high north-east winds, is reported by the British ship *Hawkesbury*. While on her passage to Shanghai, from Sydney, she fell in with large numbers of land birds, when about one hundred and fifty miles to the S.E. of the Saddle Islands, and some two hundred miles from the mainland. Among them were quail, pigeons, owls, hawks, and many small birds, principally those

commonly known as water wag-tails, seventeen of which were caught on the quarter-deck of the vessel one night after dark. A sufficient number of quail also were caught for three or four meals. Most of the birds landed on the ship utterly exhausted, so much so that they seldom attempted to escape; while others, failing to get on board, were carried by the wind against the ship's side and fell into the water. Land birds are rarely found in such numbers so far out at sea; and no doubt the birds in this instance had been carried either off the mainland or from the Islands during the late high north-east winds, and, being unable to fly any longer, sought shelter on the ship as the only alternative from being drowned.

We have referred several times lately to the performances of homing pigeons kept by local fanciers. But a flight achieved by half a dozen last week eclipses anything we have yet heard of. Six pigeons, only seven months old, let go at Woosib, at daylight, all returned to their cot before nine a.m. The distance cannot be very far short of 100 miles.

The steamer *Fleur Castle*, from London, reports two mis-haps during the passage. In the Suez Canal she broke her propeller, and had to discharge about 300 tons of cargo, and in consequence she was in the Canal six days. In the China Sea she experienced a strong monsoon and confused sea; and, shipping a large sea, her aft wheel and steering gear were carried away.

HONG KONG.

Our advices by this mail extend to Nov. 15; no later mail from London had arrived out.

The Legislative Council met on Nov. 12, when the long-expected estimates were at last brought forward. Satisfaction is expressed at the fact that those much-needed public works—the new Hospital and Central School—are really to be proceeded with, and the sums necessary for their erection have been voted, though we still have to wait until the usual red-tape formula at home has been gone through. The Governor also announced that it was intended to make alterations in the jail to permit of the separate system being adopted. He also promised a lunatic asylum at a cost of \$5,000, a very moderate sum even for the few lunatics there are in the colony. Mr. Hennessy likewise promises a large increase in the number of trees planted, his scheme being in the course of a certain number of years to cover the inhabited side of the island with vegetation. This, it is observed, would be a vast improvement, and one that ought to have been effected by Mr. Hennessy's predecessors. Many other plans were hinted at by the Governor for the benefit and improvement of the colony.

The local *Government Gazette* gives the following summary of the Act recently passed in Queensland regarding Chinese Immigration:—

Clause 2 provides that the master of every vessel having Chinese on board shall, immediately on arrival and before entry at the Customs, deliver to the collector, or other principal officer of Customs, a list of Chinese passengers on board. Penalty for default not exceeding two hundred pounds.

Clause 3 provides that if any vessel shall arrive in any port in Queensland having on board a greater number of Chinese passengers than in the proportion of one to every ten tons of the tonnage of such vessel, according to the registry thereof, if British, and if not, then according to the measurement defined by "The Merchant Shipping Act, 1854," the owner, charterer, or master of such vessel shall be liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds for each Chinese passenger so carried in excess.

Clause 4 provides that, before making entry at the Customs, the master of the vessel shall pay to the collector, or other principal officer, ten pounds for every Chinese passenger about to be landed. Penalty for neglecting this provision not exceeding twenty pounds per head, in addition to the said sum of ten pounds, together with forfeiture and condemnation of vessel.

Clause 5 provides that every Chinese arriving otherwise than by sea shall pay a sum of ten pounds.

Clause 6 provides that the office receiving this amount of ten pounds shall, without demand, forthwith hand to the Chinese immigrant a certificate of the payment of such sum.

Clause 7 provides that any Chinese immigrant leaving the colony within three years after such payment, on producing to the Collector, or other principal officer of Customs at the port of departure, the certificate handed to him on his arrival, shall be repaid the said sum of ten pounds, provided that he shall have proved to the satisfaction of the Colonial Treasurer that, during his residence in the colony, he has not, as an inmate of any hospital or jail, been any charge on the revenue thereof.

Clause 8 provides that any Chinese entering or attempting to enter the colony over the border without payment of ten pounds, shall, besides such sum, be liable to a penalty not exceeding ten pounds.

Clause 10 provides that the Colonial Treasurer, or officers authorised by him, may grant to any Chinese, being a *bond fide* resident of the colony at the time of passing this Act, an exemption for a temporary absence only, and for a specified time.

Clause 11 provides that no Chinese who is one of the crew of any vessel shall be liable to make such payment unless he lands.

In presenting medals and a pecuniary reward from the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society to two Chinese junk-masters. His Excellency the Governor made a speech, in the course of which he mentioned that he intends having some silver medals struck

off for presentation by the Governor of this colony in his own name on such occasions.

From the *Daily Press* we take the following:—

On November 8 Admiral Ryder and Captain Colomb left the colony in the P. and O. mail steamship *Nizam*. The Admiral left the *Audacious* at eleven a.m. in a barge pulled by officers. Captain Colomb following in another, also pulled by officers. The Admiral's flag was at the same time lowered from the main and Vice-Admiral Hillyar's flag run up at the fore, the first being saluted by the *Victor Emanuel* with seventeen guns, and the latter with fifteen. The *Audacious* then saluted the Commodore. The gallant Admiral has been deservedly popular amongst his officers, men, and the public, and has always evinced a warm interest in the welfare of seamen. He carries with him the good wishes of all who came in contact with him. Captain Colomb also was held in general esteem.

An explosion of gunpowder on board a trading junk on Nov. 6, resulted in the loss of over twenty lives. The *Wing Fook Lee* junk plied between Hong Kong and Kwong-hoi, and left for the latter place on the same afternoon. About eleven o'clock at night, passing the Cheung-chow lekin station, she was hailed by the examiners to heave to while they searched for contraband goods. She accordingly hove to, and two officers came on board to conduct the search. At the close of the search they came to the powder magazine; by some means the powder was ignited, and the junk was blown to pieces. There were over forty persons on the junk at the time, some of whom were passengers, and more than half of this number perished, either by drowning or injuries received in the explosion; the remainder were saved.

The following account, duly certified, of the average amount of bank-notes in circulation in Hong Kong during the month ending Oct. 31 is published in the *Gazette*:—

Banks.	Average Amount
Oriental Bank Corporation ...	\$399,388
Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China ...	572,298
Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China ...	446,895
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ...	1,759,272
	Total \$3,177,853

Amongst the passengers per steamship *Amoy*, for Shanghai, was Mr. R. E. Bredon, late Commissioner of Customs at Canton. It is rumoured that he has gone North, to succeed Mr. Hart.

George Herbert Hamilton, who was indicted for obtaining goods under false pretences, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

A reward of \$20 has been given to a Chinaman for having been the means of bringing a kidnapper to justice.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

SINGAPORE.

The present French mail brings advices from this port to Nov. 22; the French mail from London, Oct. 19, was received on Nov. 18.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on Nov. 16, when the Governor delivered the subjoined address:—

Gentlemen of the Legislative Council:—It affords me much pleasure to inaugurate my official intercourse with the Legislative Council of these Settlements. I am glad to have an opportunity of meeting you so soon after my arrival, and I use this occasion to solicit at your hands that cordial co-operation and support without which I cannot hope to acquit myself as I should wish of the highly responsible duties which the Queen has been graciously pleased to entrust to my care. I shall lose no opportunity of making myself acquainted with local wants and circumstances, in the hope that the experience so gained may be subservient to the public good; and while congratulating you on the general progress of these Settlements, and the important position which they have attained as a commercial centre in the East, I beg to assure you that I have no earnest wish than that hereafter you may be able to look back to my Administration as a period during which the welfare of the people was the chief object and desire of those entrusted with the management of public affairs.

The estimates for 1878, which were laid before Council by the Administrator, have been considered by the Finance Committee, whose report is now ready to be presented to you. Those estimates having been prepared and sent down to you before my arrival, I have made no change in them, beyond proposing to provide, by direction of the Secretary of State, for interest and sinking fund on the Loan which is about to be issued under the authority of Ordinance No. 1 of 1877, which, as you are aware from a notice in the *Government Gazette*, has been graciously confirmed by Her Majesty. Despatches on the subject of the Loan Ordinance will in due course be laid before you. A Bill to amend the law relating to the constitution of the Courts of Justice, which has been prepared in accordance with instructions received from the Secretary of State, has, since my arrival, occupied my careful attention. This Bill, which has been drawn up with much ability and care, will shortly be submitted to you, with Bills to regulate the Civil and Criminal Procedure; and I feel sure that these measures, in which I am glad to understand that the public have taken a deep and enlightened interest, will receive at your hands the consideration which their importance demands.

I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the recent completion of the works for the supply of water to the town. I am sorry to learn that the undertaking has cost more both as regard time and money

than had been anticipated. The most recent estimate of the gross expenditure was, I understand, no less than \$430,000, of which \$11,000 have been supplied out of the public revenue, while \$119,000 will have to be repaid by the Municipal Commissioners; but the importance of the boon conferred on the public, especially on the poorer classes in the town, through the provision of an unfailing and abundant supply of pure water, so essential to comfort and health, is more than commensurate with the outlay, and has, I believe, been fully appreciated during the severe and protracted drought which has now extended so far beyond the ordinary limits of the dry season.

I am not yet sufficiently acquainted with the financial position of the Settlements to decide what works of importance, in addition to works already authorised, it would be desirable for the Government to enter upon, but I am glad to understand that no difficulty will be experienced in providing the funds necessary for the construction of the new jail from current revenue, or from treasury balances which are now in excess of the reserve indispensable for current wants. The plans and estimates of the building are now in course of preparation, and will, I trust, be ready for your consideration soon after the return to duty of the Head of the Works Department. It may interest you to know that I have been requested by the Secretary of State to take a convenient opportunity, after my assumption of the Government, to consider the organisation and cost of the Works and Survey Departments. It is my intention to lose no time in complying with his Lordship's instructions, and to report fully on the whole subject, as soon as I can make myself so familiar with the circumstances and requirements of the Settlements as to enable me to do so with advantage.

On the affairs of the Lieutenant Governments and Native States I do not propose to address you until I shall have visited those places, but I will at once communicate to you certain papers which will serve to acquaint you with the line of policy which, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, I have adopted in the matter of the election of a successor to the late Sultan Ali of Moar. There are many subjects of importance on which I must refrain from addressing you until I can do so with the confidence which more experience of the Colony, and consultation with my Executive Advisers, will confer; but I cannot conclude these necessarily brief and imperfect remarks without expressing to you my grateful sense of the kindly spirit which has marked my reception amongst you, and the sincerity of my desire to devote the best energies which I possess to the advancement of the welfare of the people. The policy which the true Government should be known and understood by the public. I propose to afford you the fullest information in my power on all questions which may come before you, and as the views and wishes of the members of your Honourable Council will at all times receive at my hands the most respectful and impartial consideration, I trust that our intercourse may be marked by cordial personal relations, and that our present and future deliberations may result in progressive and beneficial legislation.

With reference to the speech the *Straits Times* says that it has made a most favourable impression, and, according to all appearances, the best relations promise to exist between his Excellency and the community over which he rules.

One of the events of the week had been the attempted departure of the schooner *Annie Beaton*, while in custody of the Supreme Court for debt. The Colonial steamer *Pluto* was sent after her, and brought her back, and the Chief Justice, taking a lenient view of the case, fined the captain only fifty dollars.

Another event had been the upsetting and sinking in the harbour of the barque *Nil Desperandum*, Captain Griffin. The accident was owing to the imprudent way in which the vessel was unloaded. She was under water for several days, but had been floated again with the loss of one mast.

On Nov. 17 a fire occurred which might have ended in the destruction of the Tanglin Barracks. The lalang grass around the bungalow of Mr. John Baxter, was set on fire, and owing to the long drought the flames spread rapidly. Assistance was promptly rendered, and the fire was stamped out before reaching the barracks or bungalow.

A farewell ball to the Hon. W. and Mrs. Adamson was given in the Tanglin Club, on Nov. 19. It was a great success, and is said to have been quite an ovation.

The Autumn Race Meeting came to a close on Nov. 17. It had been on the whole an entire success. Beyond the races there had been no public amusement.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

COLES—On the 13th Dec., at Drayton House, South Norwood-park, the wife of Henry Coles, Jun., of a daughter.
MACPHERSON—On the 16th Dec., at Camballa Hill, Bombay, the wife of John Macpherson, of the Inner Temple, of a son.
MASON—On the 18th Dec., at St. George's-place, Canterbury, the wife of W. W. Mason, of a son.
RIKE—On the 5th Oct., at Osaka, the wife of Jules de Rike, of a daughter.
WALSH—On the 15th Dec., at Abin-don Villas, Kensington, the wife of John Walsh, of a daughter.
WOODWARD—On the 17th Dec., at Arley Cottage, Bawdley, the wife of Robert Woodward, Jun., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

MACLEOD—**GIFFORD**—On the 1st Dec., at St. Andrew's Church, Liverpool, by the Rev. Donald Macleod, D.D., one of Her Majesty's Chaplains for Scotland. Norman Macleod, Ceylon, eldest son of the late Rev. Norman Macleod, D.D., of the Barony Parish, Glasgow, to Jessie Caldwell, eldest daughter of the late Wm. Gifford, Liverpool.
PHILLIPS—**CHAPMAN**—At St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong, by the Rev. C. Clarke, Chaplain of H.M.S. *Victor Emmanuel*, S. Watson Phillips, Stororman, H.M. Naval Yard, to Charlotte, fifth daughter of the late W. G. Chapman, of Great Queen-street, Cheapside.

WALSH—**WALLER**—On the 18th inst., at St. Luke's Westbourne-park, by the Rev. R. J. Knowles, Vicar, W. Arthur Stevenson Walsh, of Amelia Church, widow of the late C. B. Waller, of Singapore, and eldest daughter of the late W. W. Williams, of the same place.

DEATHS.

GOUGH—On the 3rd Nov., at the London Mission, Shanghai, Ann Maria, wife of the Rev. Frederick Foster Gough, M.A., Missionary of the C. M. S. at Ningpo.
GRAY—On the 10th Dec., at Camberwell, Robert Alexander Gray, J.P., Deputy-Lieut. of the county of Surrey, in his 90th year.
HYDE—On the 16th Dec., at Bloxham, Oxon, Rachel, the beloved wife of Edward Hyde, Sen., Surgeon, aged 69 years.
KASSBURG—On the 23rd Oct., at Nagasaki, A. Kassburg, aged 39 years.
RIBEIRO—On the 19th Oct., at Hong Kong, L. F. V. Ribeiro, late purser of the *Macao* River Steamer, aged 55 years.
PERRY—On the 12th Oct., at Tokio, Maud M. Perry, aged 8 years and 11 months.
PERRY—On the 18th Oct., V. W. Perry, aged 47 years.
THOMPSON—On the 12th Nov., at Hong Kong, Anna, wife of Captain Thompson, of the steamship *Date*; also infant daughter of the same.

EXPORT OF TEA AND SILK—SEASON 1877-78.

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Date.	TEA.				Total Bales and Cases.
	From Shang- hai and Hankow	From Foo- chow.	From Amoy.	From Canton, Macao, &c.	
From May 16, 1877, to Nov. 7, 1877	7199679	45910807	817334	15083725	133990950
From May 16, 1876, to Nov. 7, 1876	76274727	4233054	1770692	14044234	133464090

TO THE CONTINENT.

From June 1, to Nov. 7, 1877	...	...	...	...	532916	18603
Do. do. to do. 1876	...	...	...	...	5440656	48084

TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

From June 1, to Nov. 7, 1877	...	...	...	...	32678951	3146
Do. do. to do. 1876	...	...	...	...	26316734	3840

TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

From June 1, to Nov. 7, 1877	...	...	...	...	14,212,318	
Do. do. to do. 1876	...	...	...	...	14,939,873	

TO INDIA.

From	Tea-lbs.	Silk, bales	From	Tea-lbs.	Silk, bales
1843 to 1844	51,029,600	...	1864 to 1865	121,236,870	32,313
1845 to 1846	57,334,200	18,600	1865 to 1866	118,333,012	62,890
1850 to 1851	63,972,000	22,114	1866 to 1867	118,423,290	50,052
1853 to 1854	77,827,800	61,283	1867 to 1868	116,890,430	57,449
1855 to 1856	92,240,300	50,481	1868 to 1869	14,278,904	70,917
1857 to 1858	76,990,255	68,315	1869 to 1870	139,740,193	63,807
1858 to 1859	65,789,792	83,134	1870 to 1871	131,969,950	51,329
1859 to 1860	86,560,452	61,169	1871 to 1872	149,774,395	54,589
1860 to 1861	90,066,160	70,614	1872 to 1873	151,869,262	57,263
1861 to 1862	109,854,040	79,199	1873 to 1874	144,588,620	47,373
1862 to 1863	121,278,580	72,887	1874 to 1875	161,964,407	85,109
1863 to 1864	117,462,566	46,603	1875 to 1876	166,318,297	87,483

EXPORTS FROM SINGAPORE TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	Total to Nov. 22, 1877.	Total to Nov. 22, 1876.
	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tin	18,130	37,395
Gambier	440,568	320,033
Cutch	2,209	1,314
Pearl Sago	65,746	64,682
Sago Flour	198,778	184,030
Tapioca	53,583	45,341
Black Pepper	93,513	92,943
White Pepper	38,017	27,818
Coffee	16,052	18,454
Gutta Percha	22,661	14,472
Gum Benjamin	1,771	1,694
Gum Copal	5,123	2,271
Gamboge	230	296
Rattans	63,106	58,727
Buffalo Hides	42,780	20,944
Cow Hides	806	2,115
Buffalo Horns	7,501	4,903

EXPORTS FROM PENANG TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	Total to Nov. 17, 1877.	Total to Nov. 17, 1876.
	Piculs.	Piculs.
Tin	22,718	55,380
Sugar	123,000	85,518
Black Pepper	57,037	42,344
White Pepper	4,267	2,639
Cloves	213	17
Tobacco	1,662	7,735
Tapioca	23,192	13,882
Hides	1,459	5,324
Horns	206	657
India-rubber	392	365
Mace	366	326
Nutmegs	960	1,237
Rattans	3,133	9,943
Coffee	145	170

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. announce that they are prepared to pay the half-yearly reduced interest on the bonds of the Amoor River Navigation Company, St. Petersburg, due on Jan. 1 next, on and after that date, at their counting-house.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

At YOKOHAMA.—From San Francisco, Dec. 15, Gaelic (str.) ; from Cardiff, One ; from London, Zanzibar (str.).

At SHANGHAI.—From Liverpool, Dec. 19, Menelaus (str.) ; from London, 19, Titania.

At HONG KONG.—From London, Dec. 15, Glengyle (str.) ; 19, State of Alabama (str.) ; from Sydney, 22, Sir Jamsetjee Family.

At MANILA.—From Newcastle, Nov. 1, Albyn Isle.

At BANGKOK.—From Santos, Oct. 24, Adelina and Marianne.

At BATAVIA.—From Cape Town, Nov. 6, Tatay ; from Holland, 17, Mary, Makassar ; 10, Nieuwe Waterweg ; 11, Wester Scheide ; from Liverpool, 9, Annie ; 10, Strasburg ; from Newport, 11, Jamaica ; from Newcastle, 11, Hindostan ; from Adelaide, 10, Poseiden ; from New York, 12, Richard McManus ; from Rio de Janeiro, 14, Ida ; from New-castle, Dec. 14, Utrecht.

At SAMARANG.—From Adelaide, Oct. 26, Stormbird ; from Port Elizabeth, 31, Cathaya ; from New York, 31, Corsica ; from Rotterdam, Dec. 15, Bali.

At SOURABAYA.—From New York, Nov. 7, Caribon ; from Greenock, 7, Cornelis Smit, County of Ayr.

At PADANG.—From Dunedin, Oct. 31, Beatrice Havener.

At SINGAPORE.—From Cardiff, Dec. 20, Amina, Britannia, Canopus, Deike Rickmers, Europa, Ole Bull, Melpomene ; from Newport, 20, Hermann ; from London, 21, Altona (str.), Mercur ; from Shields, 21, Frigga.

DEPARTURES.

From HIAGO.—For London Nov. 2, Glaucus (str.) ; 5, Glenfinlas (str.) ; 6, Hankow (str.) ; for Callao, 6, Edward Barrow.

From FOOCHOW.—For London, Oct. 30, Wylo ; Nov. 6, Glaucus (str.) ; 8, Jerusalem ; for London and Hamburg, 6, Egeria (str.) ; for New Zealand, 2, Countess of Erroll ; for Melbourne, 8, Wandering Minstrel.

From AMOY.—For New York, Dec. 16, Fleurs Castle (str.).

From HONG KONG.—For Hamburg, Nov. 8, Lord Macaulay ; for London, 10, Woodville ; 13, Glenfinlas (str.) ; Glaucus (str.) ; for Sydney, 12, Chocola ; for New York, 13, H.S. Sanford ; for Melbourne, 14, Alva.

From MANILA.—For London, Oct. 31, Berwickshire.

From PADANG.—For Holland, Nov. 5, Snap.

From BATAVIA.—For the Channel, 10, Nov. 8, Burmah, 2, Louis de Geer ; 7, County of Argyll ; 10, McB. Park ; for Boston, 9, Hazard ; for Australia, 13, Triton ; 14, Onward ; for Holland, 3, Abraham ; 7, Schneider, Nicolette ; 13, Emma ; Dec. 20, Hampton (str.) ; for Queenstown, Dec. 20, Cordelia.

From SAMARANG.—For Holland, Oct. 31, Michael Angelo ; for Australia, 9, Herald of the Morning.

From ANJER.—From Manila to New York, Nov. 12, Southminster ; from Amoy to New York, Dec. 8, Osaka.

From SINGAPORE.—For London, Nov. 19, Glenfinlas (str.) ; 20, Glaucus (str.) ; for New York, 19, Glenearn (str.) ; for Marseilles, 20, Sumatra (str.).

NINETY per cent. premium has been paid upon the Rotterdam Lloyd's steamer Friesland, from Batavia for Holland, which put into Gibraltar for coal on the 4th inst., and left again for her port of destination on the day following. Since that time nothing further has been heard of her. A telegram received at Lloyd's from their agent at Corunna strengthens the fears that this steamer has met with a disaster. The telegram states that for the last few days boxes of tea, bales of tobacco, coffee, and bundles of bamboo have washed ashore, belonging to a steamer, name unknown, supposed to have been lost, with all hands, at Corrobedo, near Finisterre.

A TELEGRAM from Singapore, dated 18th inst., states that the Johann Rudolph, from Manila for Sydney, with a cargo of hemp, has been totally lost by fire off the coast of Mindoro. The crew were picked up and landed at Singapore.

A TELEGRAM from Singapore, dated 22nd inst., states that the Flintshire (str.) from Singapore to Hong Kong, is ashore on Scarboro Shoal, but is making no water, and that assistance has been sent.

EXCHANGES, &c.
[For dates see first page.]
ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credits.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.....	Rs. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Shanghai, "	6s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Canton, "	3s. 11d.	3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Hong Kong, "	3s. 11d.	3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Macao, "	4s. 0d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Singapore, "	4s. 0d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Fenang, "	4s. 0d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Manila, "	4s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	4s. 2d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

—	At Shanghai.	At Hong Kong.
Bills on India	Rs. 301 to 302 $\frac{1}{2}$	Rs. 220
" Hong Kong	27 to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ dls.	—
Bar silver	3 Tls. 11.2.0	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ prem. (nominal)
Mexican dollars	Tls. 73.4.75	1 prem. (nominal)

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ prem.
Shanghai Dock Company, Tls. 225.
Shanghai Gas Company, Tls. 145.
Steam Tug and Boat Association, Tls. 100 (nominal).
French Gas Co.-pany, Tls. 71.
Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$665 (nominal).
North China Insurance Company, Tls. 660 (nominal).
Yangtsze Insurance Association, Tls. 625.
Union Insurance Society, \$100.
China Traders Company (Limited), \$2,900.
China Fire Insurance Company, Tls. 172 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company, Tls. 106.
Chinese Imperial Loan, £104.
Pootung Dock Company, Tls. 88.
China Coast Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 73.
Shanghai Steam Navigation Company (in liquidation), Tls. 26.

HONG KONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 55 per cent. prem.
Hong Kong Gas Company, \$75 per share.
Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 15 per cent. discount.
China Traders' Insurance Company, \$2,500 per share.
Hotel Shares, \$60 per share.
Hong Kong Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, 20 per cent. divs.
Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$670 per share.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, \$1,100 per share.
China Fire Insurance Company, \$175 per share.
Chinese Insurance Company, \$255 per share.
Chinese Imperial Loan, £104 10s. (exchange 4s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.).
Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 26 per share.

SINGAPORE SHARE QUOTATIONS.

Tanjong Pagar Dock Shares (\$100 paid), \$150.
New Harbour Dock Company (\$100 paid), par.
Singapore Gas Company (2s paid), par.
Galena Mining Company (35 paid), nominal.
Singapore Steamship Company (Limited), par.

* * The latest telegrams report the rate for six months bank bills at Singapore 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., Hong Kong 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., at Shanghai 5s. 6d.

THE MAILS.

PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—MARSEILLES, DEC. 17.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Amazone, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, arrived here at one p.m. to-day. She brings 110 passengers and a general cargo, including 1,287 bales of silk, 3,693 packages of tea, and 648 packages of sundries for London, which part of her cargo will be forwarded to its destination per Company's steamer Gange, due in London on or about Jan. 1st.

HEAVY PORTION OF LAST INWARD MAIL.—GIBRALTAR, DEC. 18.—The P. and O. steamer Poonah, from Port Said, Dec. 11 left at noon for Southampton with the India, China, and Australia heavy mails.

OUTWARD MAIL OF NOVEMBER 9.—HONG KONG, DEC. 19.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Geelong, with the mail from London, Nov. 9, has arrived here.

SHIPPING POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVALS NOT IN THE TABLES.—Dec. 20, at Falmouth, from Amoy, Livingstone ; at Liverpool, from Rangoon, Earl of Mar and Kellie ; 18, at Ymuiden, from Samarang, Hermit ; 20, at San Francisco, from Hong Kong, Jubilee ; at New York, from Padang, Kingdom o' Fife.

DEPARTURES.—Dec. 20, from Cardiff, for Singapore, McCullum More ; Nov. 20, from Algoa Bay, for Guam, Hendrika ; Dec. 19, at Helvoet, from Samarang, Anna Precht.

SPOKEN.—Vice-Admiral May (Dutch barque), Java to Middelburg, Oct. 10, 32 S., 37 E.; Gateshead (Eng. barque), Sourabaya to Falmouth, Nov. 7, 22 S., 3 E.; Macdon (barq.), Sourabaya to Falmouth, Nov. 12, 30 S., 15 E.; Julie of Havre, Marseilles to Saigon, 51 days out, 20 S., 31 W.; Tauresia (Ital. barq.), Rangoon to Falmouth, 60 days out, Oct. 15, 27 S., 45 E.; HBCP. (Norm. barq.), Batavia to Dordt, 46 days out, Nov. 6, 25 S., 6 E.; Wildwood, Liverpool to Foochow, Oct. 25, 24 S., 29 W.; Q.T.C.G. (barq.) London to Canton, Oct. 29, 32 S., 26 W.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Dec. 20, Port Said, arrived, Cairnsmuir, from London to Penang ; Gibraltar, arrived, Glenearn (str.), from China and left for New York, Dec. 20 ; Dungeness, Dec. 20, arrived off, Thorbecke, Batavia for Amsterdam ; Spithead, Dec. 20, arrived, short of water, Elizabeth, Amsterdam for Batavia.

THE LIVERPOOL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ON THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

The following despatch has been addressed to the Earl of Derby by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce with reference to the Chefoo Convention :—

The Incorporated Chamber of Commerce of Liverpool.

Liverpool, Dec. 20, 1877.

MY LORD.—I have the honour to inform your Lordship that several communications have been made to the Council of this Chamber on the subject of the Chefoo Convention, the ratification of which is under the consideration of the Foreign-office.

Some of the communications referred to advocate very strongly the ratification of the Chefoo Convention, while others, on the other hand, ask the co-operation of this Chamber in favour of withholding the ratification of the Convention.

The communications upon the subject have been carefully considered by the Council, who have directed me to state most respectfully to your Lordship that, in their opinion, the Chefoo Convention ought to be ratified, and I am to ask your Lordship to be pleased to advise Her Majesty accordingly.

I have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble servant,

WILLIAM BLOOD, Secretary.

To the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby.

CLOSING OF THE WOOSUNG RAILWAY.

The *Daily News*, alluding to the above event, says:—The story of the Woosung Railway will form an interesting page in the history of our relations with the Chinese Empire. It is necessary to remind our readers that the undertaking itself was an attempt to force upon the Chinese the benefits of the railway system. The provincial authorities gave permission to certain English capitalists to construct an ordinary road, and the latter took advantage of the concession to make a railway, which they hoped would prove so popular among the people as to disarm the opposition of the authorities. However well meaning may have been the intentions of the authors of this experiment, it was, we think, an error of judgment on their part to act without the sanction of the Government of China, or, at all events, of its local representatives. The railroad, although a short one, was exposed to great danger during its construction; and, indeed, many times it was confidently predicted that the Chinese would either pull up the line or never allow it to come into operation. These prophecies happily were not justified by the result. The railway was not only completed but worked, and many thousands of passengers for the first time thus made personal acquaintance with what was to them a wonderful means of locomotion. But the Chinese Government, after much hesitation, determined to exercise its authority, and perhaps in the circumstances it is not surprising that they should have felt it necessary to take action of some kind. Their action took the form of purchasing the railway with all its appurtenances, and the first use they made of their newly-acquired property was to suspend the working of the line. At this juncture Lord Derby appears to have come on the scene with the expression of a hope that the Chinese Government would not proceed to extremities. It is now said that the Government have ordered the locomotives to be pulled to pieces, and intend to remove the entire plant to Formosa. We are, however, informed that there is still a considerable probability that the line will not be transferred to another place, but that (after a short delay) it will be re-opened. All well-wishers of China cannot fail to hope that this may prove to be the case.

Naval and Military.

Colonel C. Wood, formerly of the 10th (Prince of Wales's Own) Hussars, one of the few remaining Waterloo officers, died on the 13th inst., having just attained his eighty-eighth year. The late Colonel Wood joined in 1809 the 52nd Regiment as ensign, and was engaged in the principal battles of the Peninsular war. He was severely wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Busaco, when carrying the King's colours of this noted regiment. In 1811 he joined the 10th Hussars, with which regiment he was present at Waterloo. In a note to the Duke of Wellington's Despatches, Vol. VIII., page 148, occurs the following note by Colonel Gurdon, in reference to the deceased colonel:—"Captain C. Wood, on picket duty with Major Hon. F. Howard, squadron of the 10th Hussars, patrolled at daybreak along the road leading to Sombref. The morning's vedette fell back as the patrol advanced. Captain Wood having ascertained that the Prussian army had quitted the field of battle of the preceding day, hastened to report the circumstance to the Duke of Wellington at Quatre Bras. On the road he met Lieut.-Colonel Hon. Sir Alexander Gordon, with another half squadron of the 10th Hussars, sent by his Grace to communicate with Marshal Blucher that the British army would proceed to take up the position in front of Waterloo, and co-operate, according to previous arrangement, with the Prussian army. Captain Wood afterwards was badly wounded at Waterloo."

Under the sanction of the Admiralty, and in the presence of the Director of Naval Ordnance, Heavy Gun Committee, and representatives of the German, Italian, and Austrian Governments, experiments have been made on board the *Thistle* to determine whether steel is better than iron for armour-plating of ships. Four plates, each 9in. thick, were fired at with a 12-ton gun, charged with 50 lb. pebble powder and a 250 lb. projectile. The distance from gun to plate was 30 ft. The plates cost the manufacturers, Messrs. Cammell and Co. (Limited), Shiffield, nearly £1,000 each, but were presented gratis for experiments. The results were not regarded as favourable for the substitution of steel for iron.

The *Northampton*, twin screw, armour-plated ship, 7,323 tons, 600-horse power, has had an official trial, with highly satisfactory results. During the first hour of the run the contract power was not reached, but speed steadily increased until a maximum of 86 revolutions per minute of port and 85.5 of starboard engine was attained, indicating 6,450-horse power. The mean indicated power for the five hours was 6,037, with 60 pounds pressure of steam boilers, 27 inches vacuum, and 83.75 revolutions of starboard and 84 revolutions of port engines. During the second hour of trial the speed was taken over the measured mile, showing that just over 14 knots per hour was being made.

The officers of Devonport and Keyham yards have received orders to forward as rapidly as possible the refitting and repair of the few vessels now in hand. A number of workmen have consequently been started working overtime. Accommodation has been provided at Chatham for Her Majesty's armoured ship *Nelson*, built at the yard of Messrs. J. Elder and Co., Glasgow, which is to be sent to Chatham for the purpose of being equipped and prepared for the pennant. The *Nelson*, which is a sister ship to the *Northampton*, is of the broadside type, her tonnage being 7,323, and her engines of 6,000-horse power (indicated).

Brevet-Col. M. Dillon, C.B., C.S.I., on the Staff of General Lord Napier of Magdala, Governor of Gibraltar, as Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General, will assume the command of the Chatham District on Jan. 1, he having been appointed to succeed Lieut.-Gen. J. Erskine, whose period of appointment has expired. Gen. Erskine's appointment expired in July last, but the Commander-in-Chief allowed him to retain the command for another six months. He has made himself very popular, not only with the troops under his command, but also with the inhabitants of Chatham and the surrounding district.

The Volunteer Force is still increasing in numbers. It is shown by the reports of commanding officers furnished during the past month to the War-office that they amount to upwards of 175,000 men, all of whom have fulfilled the obligations required by the Commander-in-Chief from efficient Volunteers. Of these 175,000 men, 32,000 are artillermen, 7,000 engineers, 133,000 infantry, and the remainder mounted rifles and permanent staff.

An application has been made to the Master of the Rolls on behalf of Mr. Vavassour, the inventor of copper rings for cannon shells and bolts, for an injunction against Baron Krupp, of Essen, to restrain him from arming the Japanese ironclad Foo Soo with projectiles manufactured on the plaintiff's system. Plaintiff, it was alleged, had obtained a patent for the invention which defendant was thus infringing. An injunction was granted.

The Iris, the new steel despatch vessel, has been undergoing machinery trials at Portsmouth. The results have been very satisfactory. A little over the horse-power contracted for was developed, and from beginning to end an almost unvarying speed of sixteen knots was indicated.

Capt. M. H. Saward, Royal (late Bengal) Horse Artillery, has been appointed a Deputy Assistant-Adjutant-General, Royal Artillery, in India, in pursuance of an Order in Council sanctioning the employment of an extra officer of that rank, with the usual staff allowances.

The Himalaya, trooship, has sailed from Portsmouth for the Mediterranean with new crews for the Devastation and Raleigh, the companies of which will be paid off at Malta.

A man named John Carson, who in his youth formed one of the force which guarded the Emperor Napoleon's exile at St. Helena, has died in Carlisle Workhouse.

The Pelican, composite sloop, Commander Boys, has left Devonport for a week's experimental cruise in the Channel, previous to leaving for the Pacific station.

On the 15th inst. the President of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, made an official inspection of the cadets.

THE PACIFIC MAIL COMPANY'S CONTRACT.

With reference to the conveyance of the China and Japan Mails the report of the Postmaster-General says:—Congress, by Act of Feb. 17, 1865, authorised a contract for carrying the mails between San Francisco and Hong Kong, for ten years, at the rate of \$500,000 per annum. According to the provisions of this Act the Postmaster-General, Oct. 16, 1866, made a contract with the Pacific Mail Steamship Company for carrying the said mails. The Company, under the terms of the contract, were to receive \$500,000 for the performance of twelve round trips per annum for a contract term of ten years, to begin on or before Jan. 1, 1867, and on the day the first steamship of the line shall depart from the port of San Francisco with the mails for China." Five millions of dollars were appropriated for this service. It required a little more than two months to make one round trip. Ten years from the beginning the contract expired, Dec. 31, 1876, but the trips, commenced Nov. 1, and Dec. 1, 1876, were not completed until after Jan. 1, 1877. The Company has never received any compensation for carrying the mails on these two round trips, and no money has at any time been specifically appropriated for that purpose. This matter is mentioned that the attention of Congress may be called to it for such action as in its judgment the law and equity of the contract may demand.

THE CHINESE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

The Chinese six companies of San Francisco have addressed a communication to Senator Evarts in reply to Senator Sargent's recent letter. They call attention to the fact that, since the adoption of the treaty, the United States have received from China nearly \$500,000 indemnity for outrages on American citizens and property in China; that for years the Chinese have been robbed and murdered in California, and not in one case in five have the perpetrators been brought to justice; that the punishment of the Chico murderers is attributable to the influence and money of the good citizens of San Francisco, the result being an exception to the rule. They recall the recent anti-Chinese raid in Placer county and the July riots in this city to disprove Mr. Sargent's statement that county officials have sought to punish offenders against the Chinese and succeeded. They admit that the courts are honest, but say the officers surrounding the Judiciary are pledged to prosecute them before they can get office. They state that in twenty-five years immigration has not exceeded emigration by 4,000 annually, and reiterate their desire, expressed to Senator Morton, that the immigration of Chinese should be restricted within certain limits.

We are informed that the P. and O. Company have decided on allowing a reduction in the rate of passage money for persons desiring to run from India to England, and return within three months. The measure will doubtless be very popular in India, as it will afford Government officials who accumulate their annual monthly leave an opportunity of seeing the old country and their friends at frequent intervals, and on occasions will no doubt be useful to others. It is possible that some similar regulation—with, we presume, a somewhat longer interval—may be taken into consideration with reference to China; and could it be adopted, a great boon would be conferred upon many there in the Consular and Colonial Service who would be able to get away from a hot season from time to time at a more moderate outlay than at present.

The China Mission of the Church of Scotland has been successfully launched, and five young men will shortly set out to establish Mission stations.

GERMANY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAMBURG, Dec. 18.

The great topic of conversation and discussion here has been the events on the theatre of war, the surrender of Osman Pacha, the capture of Plevna, and the request of the Porte to the European Powers for mediation. The fall of Plevna has not created much surprise, but great praise is accorded to its gallant defender, who, with his small army of 30,000 men, has been able to withstand almost the whole army of Russia. On the Bourse, certainly one of the best barometers of the political atmosphere, the fall of Plevna has not had much effect. As regards mediation, it is beyond doubt that the Imperial Government is not inclined to interfere. Prince Bismarck is still at Varzin, and by no means has forgotten how much he is indebted to Russia for the position it held during the late French war.

The sittings of the Prussian Diet during the past week have not presented anything of special interest, the debates having been upon topics of mere internal importance. The members will leave Berlin on the 21st for their Christmas vacation, and are holding night sittings in order to work up the outstanding business. The Reichstag will reassemble in January, and everybody is eager to know whether Prince Bismarck will be present. His leave of absence extends till the end of March, and the latest rumour is that his health is not yet sufficiently re-established to permit of his undergoing the fatigue connected with his office. He has therefore been advised not to return to Berlin before the financial year, which commences in April, but as some topics of high importance are to be discussed in the early sittings of the Reichstag, well-informed persons in Berlin do not consider his earlier return as improbable. In the meanwhile the commercial treaty between Austria-Hungary, and Germany has been prolonged for six months, *viz.*, to June 30 next, in order to gain time for the discussion of another treaty. As I hear to-day, the German plenipotentiaries have orders to be in readiness to proceed to Vienna.

A new telegraphic convention has been signed by France and Germany. This occurrence may be regarded as a matter of great importance, not only because the so-called word-tariff (20 centimes per word) has been adopted, but because it may be considered as leading to the proposed arrangement by which telegraphic communication between all countries shall be conducted upon the same principles as those which control the postal convention.

The corvette Leipzig, which it was intended to despatch to the Far East, will not be commissioned for this destination, but will be sent to Central America, and another man-of-war will be sent to Asiatic waters.

An event has occurred at Berlin which has caused considerable excitement. The military commander has ordered the arrest of an Englishman, who was staying at one of the first hotels in the city, upon suspicion of high treason in attempting to corrupt certain Government officials. He was in possession of plans of the fortifications of Metz.

The Chinese Minister at Berlin, has been received by the Emperor, in full state. The Minister himself was first introduced personally by the Master of the Ceremonies, and afterwards the other members of the Embassy. All of them made their appearance in the most magnificence dresses. The Minister made a speech in Chinese to the Queen, which was translated by an interpreter. The Emperor of China may well be content with the reception of his representative at Berlin.

The second month of next year will bring forth great festivals in the Metropolis, the occasion being a Royal wedding which is now definitely fixed for Feb. 18. The Princess Charlotte, granddaughter of her Majesty Queen Victoria, is to be united to the hereditary Prince of Saxe-Weimar, and the daughter of the Prince Frederick Carl of Prussia; Princess Elizabeth, to the hereditary Prince of Oldenburg.

The return of the Imperial Bank for the week ended the 15th inst. shows an increase in bills of m. 4,425,000, and of m. 5,092,000 in cash in hand. The private deposits are higher by m. 1,668,000, and the notes in circulation by m. 12,582,000.

At Pesth, the capital of Hungary, a demonstration in favour of the Turks has taken place, which degenerated into a riot of some dimensions. A crowd of over 5,000 persons amongst them several deputies of large towns, had assembled, speeches were delivered against the Austrian Chancellor, Count Andrasz, and a resolution was finally adopted, declaring that the time had arrived to stop the further extension of Russian power. This resolution being adopted, the whole crowd rushed out of the room in which the meeting was held, destroying furniture and breaking windows, and then moved on to the palace of the Prime Minister. Signor Tisza declined to receive a deputation, upon which the crowd began to storm the gates of the palace. It was only by the aid of two battalions of soldiers that order was restored and the crowd forced to retire. The Russian Consul was the same evening favoured by the crowd with an uncomplimentary serenade.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Business in our markets becomes more and more quiet for all articles, as no inclination is shown for larger transactions, in view of the approaching close of the year, and the continued absence of demand for consumption.

COFFEE.—Transactions have shown very little animation, and buyers have only operated for urgent wants.

SUGAR without sales. Quotations are:—Manila, brown, clayed m. 24½ to 26½; do., unclayed, m. 18 to 20; Mauritius, brown, m. 18 to 24; do., yellow, m. 26 to 28; Batavia, white, m. 31 to 32½; do., yellow and brown, m. 26½ to 29½; Batavia brown, m. 18 to 24½; Siam, Benares and China, white, m. 29 to 31; Zanzibar, brown and yellow, m. 20 to 29; China, brown and yellow, m. 18 to 27 per 100 lbs.

RICE.—Sales of dressed quality have been few, but values remain unchanged. Of raw quality no sales are reported.

TEA.—Of first-hand parcels have been sold 34½ boxes Congou, 17½ boxes Souchong and 79½ boxes Tecco.

COTTON is firm, with some consumptive demand. Transactions have only been in American.

SPICES.—Ginger: Bengal dull at m. 24 to 24½; Cochin, in demand at m. 65 to 68; Nutmegs firmer at m. 2.50 to 3.20; Mace, m. 2 to 2.30; Cloves: Zanzibar firm, with nearly exhausted stocks at m. 150 to 155; Amboina, m. 160 to 165; Do. Stalks, firmer, at m. 41 to 42. Pepper fully maintained; Singapore quality, m. 36½ to 37; Batavia and Penang, m. 33½ to 34; White, m. 64 to 75.

STOCKS AND SHARES.

The principal event of the past week has been the close of the political crisis in France, which, however, has given no fresh stimulus or animation. The fall of Plevna has likewise been without effect. The same dullness prevails; transactions are restricted in the utmost, and the tendency in general must be called quiet in the extreme. Yesterday it became known that the Deutsche Bank at Berlin, with branches at several other places, including one in our town, has suffered a considerable loss, amounting, it is said, to m. 554,000, caused by speculations entered into by two officials. The latest quotations are:—

	Money.	Account.
Imperial Loan	...	95
Hamburg Railway Loan of 1868	...	101½
Hamburg Loan of 1870	...	...
Do. do. 1875	94½	94½
Hamburg Premium Loan of 1846	...	—
Hamburg Premium Loan of 1866	116½	117
Coeln Minden Railway	84½	84½
Norddeutsche Bank	137½	138
Vereinsbank	—	123½
International Bank	—	79½
Commerce and Discount Bank	—	95
Do. do. 2nd issue (40 p.c.)	—	96
Anglo-Deutsche Bank	—	—
Hamburg American Packet Company	45½	46
Deutsche Dampfschiffs Rhederei	—	—
Deutsche Transatlantic Company	11½	12

SHIPPING.

The dullness which prevailed on the river at the date of my last letter has been prolonged, there being no change for the better, both arrivals as well as departures being limited. It is plainly visible that winter, notwithstanding the absence of frost, has arrived. From the Far East, neither here nor at Bremen has a single arrival been reported; and of departures only one has taken place, that of the Christine Schulze, for Japan. In vessels on the berth no alteration has taken place; rates of freight are as low as ever, and steam as well as sail accept of almost anything that is offered. The English steamer Argyle, Captain Shetliff, from Dunkirk and Antwerp, to the Baltic, having broken her mainshaft, was towed into the river, and is repairing here. The damage sustained by the Pacha, s.s. is also being repaired, and she will soon be able to resume her voyage. In the Baltic a heavy frost has set in. Cronstadt, after the departure of the last steamer, has been closed, and by the appearance of the weather to-day we may soon expect to have frost here at Hamburg.

HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, DEC. 19.

The Members of the Second Chamber have been still engaged in the Budget discussions, which have resulted in their being carried. When the Budget of the Colonial Department came on the *tapis* Mr. Van der Hoeven urged that the Minister should compel the Java Government to apply the resolution regarding the police regulations respecting agreements between masters and workmen. He alluded to the abuses which prevail on the East Coast of Sumatra, in the tyranny to which free labourers are subjected by their employers. Messrs. Saaymans Vader, Teding Van Berkhout and De Yonge criticised the policy of the Ministry because they did not assist in the introduction of Christianity into Java. The Minister Van Bosse repeated what he had said before; the duty of the Government was to treat all classes of the population with equal justice. It was impossible to go farther than this. Mr. Van Bosse agreed that, when the time should arrive for the East India Government to apply the police resolutions, he would cause it to be done. The matter then dropped, and the Budget was approved by fifty-four against nine votes. It is, indeed, very strange how little interest is now displayed in Colonial affairs. The great questions are left alone by members of all parties. The East India Budget is hurried through the Chambers, and when a so-called thoroughly Liberal Cabinet is formed the portfolio of the Colonies is entrusted to—Mr. Van Bosse! The Colonial question has given place to that of lower-class education. Is it thus that the Liberal programme is to be fulfilled? Are there no reorganizations to be introduced? This "do nothing" policy causes surprise here, and will create indignation in Java, where much has been expected from the Liberals.

From several districts complaints are made regarding the Reform Bill. The general objection is the prevalence of nepotism and favouritism. The law, as it now stands, favours the Liberals, and they, of course, protest against any alteration. There is, however, discontent also on the opposite side. The Conservatives and Clericals are opposed to the Bill, which seems to have a very small chance of being carried without vital alterations. We are very anxious to know the result of the debate in the Second Chamber.

Much anxiety prevails about the fate of the steamer Friesland, homeward bound from Java, which is overdue for twelve days since she left Gibraltar. The day before yesterday a premium of 45 per cent. was paid for re-assurance, and yesterday the premium went up to 60 per cent.

I regret to record the death of A. J. C. Baron Schimmelpenninck Van der Oye, ex-Ambassador at Berlin. He was born in 1796 at Keppel.

About our trade and financial affairs there is no news to report. Trade is dull, owing to the absence of frosty weather, and on the Bourse the transactions are on a more limited scale than ever.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS, CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

No notice can be taken of Anonymous Correspondence. Whatever is intended for insertion must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

A REGISTER is kept of the Addresses of all Persons connected with the FAR EAST, and reference can be made to the same by personal application at the Office or by letter. Any information required by Subscribers in reference to Commercial or general matters in CHINA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE, and other parts of the FAR EAST will be supplied on application at the Office, where files may be seen of the Journal's published in those Countries.

The "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS" is published Weekly on the day of departure of the mails, and contains a summary of English, Continental, and American News, Commercial and Shipping Reports, &c. Subscription, £3 3s. per annum.

The "LONDON AND CHINA TELEGRAPH" is published Weekly on the arrival of the English and French mails. Subscription, £2 2s. per annum.

JAMES WEST, PUBLISHER,
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The London & China Telegraph.

LONDON: MONDAY, DEC. 24, 1877.

THIS MAIL'S NEWS.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the Peking Government does not appear by any means so much disposed as it was last year to leave to chance the relief of the sufferers in the famine-stricken districts. As mentioned in our last, instructions had been issued by the Peking authorities to afford aid in Shensi; but it was feared that they might be rendered nugatory through the rapacity of the underlings employed. To obviate this contingency, the Emperor has appointed a high official, formerly Vice President of the Board of Works at Peking, to travel through the districts, and superintend the relief. No further accounts concerning the famine are brought by the present mail, but there appears to be no doubt as to its continued severity. Some very important facts are brought to notice concerning opium in China. It seems that the *Peking Gazette* of Oct. 13 contains another of the now too familiar decrees forbidding the cultivation of the drug. The last of these *abolitions*, which appeared on Sept. 22, 1876, passed apparently without notice, and hence the present renewal of the threats and prohibitions. But the curious part of the business is that a fortnight previous only a decree had appeared sentencing to degradation a Mandarin in Kweichow, who it set forth had misappropriated the sum of eleven hundred taels of lekin dues on native opium. By this the official Chinese *Gazette* distinctly recognises the legality of collecting taxes upon the drug, the cultivation of which is pronounced in another breath to be illegal and immoral. The fact is certainly interesting, as showing the extent to which the Chinese are endeavouring to suppress the cultivation. From Shanghai there is comparatively little news by the present mail, in consequence of its covering the period of Race week. The Autumn Meeting appears to have been spoilt by extremely unfavourable weather. Details are given with reference to the recent Chinese Loan. Kidnapping in the settlements continues, and a somewhat serious case in which a girl was enticed away is related.

In Hong Kong the long-expected estimates have been brought forward. A *résumé* of the new Ordinance passed in Queensland with regard to Chinese Immigrants is published. A serious gunpowder explosion has taken place on board a junk.

From the Straits Settlements we receive by the present mail the full text of the speech delivered by Sir W. C. F. Robinson, the new Governor of Singapore, at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 16th ult. The address—which we reproduce in full—has made a favourable impression. A farewell ball has been given to Mr. and Mrs. Adamson, who have returned home by this mail. A fire, which was extinguished before it had attained important dimensions, has occurred near the Tanglin Barracks.

WE give elsewhere the letter which has been written by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce to the Earl of DERBY in favour of ratifying the Chefoo Convention. It has the merit of not being over long, but it would no doubt carry more weight had the Chamber indicated their reasons for the view which they advocate. They appear to have been simply influenced by a balance of the views which have reached them. This is perhaps to be regretted, as Sir THOMAS WADE, having been recently at Liverpool, could doubtless have given them every information on the subject and aided them in forming an opinion of their own.

THE ALTERED STATE OF THE TEA TRADE.

A CHANGE of a very important character in the nature of the Tea trade, which has been gradually noticeable, has become latterly so much established as to deserve special attention. In former times, and indeed until quite recently, the amount of profit made by the native growers was so large that the fluctuations in the markets here were not sufficient to affect in any material way the quantity of leaf produced and sent forward to the markets. The season might be more or less profitable to the dealers; but the producers still obtained full rates for all that they could pick and prepare; and thus nothing on this side was sufficient to put an end to production in China. In consequence, as might be naturally expected, the markets in China were invariably against the foreign buyers. If the Teas at home lost, the producers and the country dealers could look philosophically upon fluctuations which still left them a handsome profit. As a result of this state of things, the Tea market, however disastrous its state might be, nearly always lacked the benefit of the reaction which ordinarily adjusts other overstocked markets. No cessation of production or shipment took place; and while the foreign merchant bewailed his losses, the up-country dealers accepted with perfect equanimity prices which though death to others were sport to them. Gradually, however, this state of happy independence on the part of the Chinese has become diminished, and there are signs that at last a healthier state of the Tea trade may be anticipated from very unexpected causes. The excessive supplies from China, combined with the large importations of Indian Teas, have had the effect of establishing a permanently lower range of prices. Common Congou, which formerly blushed to be below 10d. a lb., has, until recently, shown itself unabashed at public sales at 7d., and other Teas have fallen in proportion in their average and normal value. This result has not been brought about without much serious loss to the Tea trade; but out of this evil good of a permanent character is likely to arise. A point has, in fact, been reached at which the fluctuations in the market have begun to affect the producers and the Chinese dealers. We read in late advices that the natives have stopped bringing Teas down to the leading markets; and a calculation will show that the range of prices which had become established in the markets here for the past two years is such that Chinese producers themselves will find it difficult to send Teas to meet them without loss, it being well known by those Europeans who have travelled in the Tea districts that ordinary Congou cannot be manufactured for the foreign market inside 8d. a lb., without loss to the producers. The importance of this change, in its bearing upon the healthiness of the trade, cannot be overestimated. The effect—which has in fact been already felt this year—will be, that the production in China instead of continuing practically an unlimited quantity will come more into harmony with the wants of the trade this side, and that a low market here will again have the effect of curtailing supplies, and will thus once more have within itself an element tending to rectify it. This feature in the Tea market will be further increased by the competition with Indian Teas, which have now become so thoroughly established as a staple article of commerce. There can be no doubt that they must always exercise a strong influence upon the ordinary run of blacks from China; while we find that some classes of teas from that country have already been completely ousted by their rivals from India. Green Teas are now becoming a thing of the past in this market; and it is probable that China Teas will be affected in the following rotation by the increasing supplies of Indian, namely:—

- (1.) Green Teas.
- (2.) Canton Scented Orange Pekoe.
- (3.) Foochow Pekoes.
- (4.) Tayshan Congou.
- (5.) Red Leaf Congou.
- (6.) Souchong.

In short, the probability is that only the Black Leaf Teas will be left to blend with Indian, unless, indeed—as however it would appear too much to hope—the buyers in China will insist upon the producers making a tea which can hold its own against the Indian leaf. Still, however, with those Teas which they will not supersede, the Indian product will unquestionably continue to

compete very severely, so that in fact we shall find that the days of the independence of the China Tea growers and dealers must in a short time be considered numbered. China no longer possesses any monopoly, and the profits which the producers there can make will be in future years much more dependent upon the prices that can be realised here than has hitherto been the case. Under such circumstances there is room to hope that the markets here will cease to be so much oversupplied as has hitherto been the case, and that if profits be not so large as they were (when they *did* occur) in former days, they will be more regular, while on the other hand losses will be less severe and of less frequent occurrence.

JAPANESE FINANCE.

THE latest papers from Japan again bring to notice an unsatisfactory and doubtful state of Japanese financial policy. It appears to be generally understood that the Government is continuing the issue of paper money, but upon what basis and for what special purpose is not known, even to the best-informed natives. A sensible article on the subject is contained in the *Kinji-Horon*, one of the native papers, which had been informed that the Japanese Government had recently issued paper money to the value of 20,000 yen, and states that this money was to be found in the hands of tradesmen, and that official salaries were being paid in it. The native journal above named naïvely observes that "it is very wrong on the part of the Government to have issued paper money without any previous notice to the people." Of this there can be no question whatever, and the Japanese Government will assuredly ruin its credit if it persist in so ill-advised a course. According to the statement published by Mr. MOUNSEY, the Secretary to the British Legation some time back, the financial position of Japan was by no means of a character to make it necessary to resort to extreme measures; and there can be no question that the issue of paper money without due notice—in point of fact making forced loans—is an expedient of a most dangerous character. Its bearing both internally and externally ought to be most carefully considered by the Government. Internally it must, if continued, have the effect of totally paralysing trade, and that in a manner which must always be against the native. In the purchase of imports from other countries they will be forced to pay higher rates to make up for the fall in exchange which will arise in consequence of more money (or rather what passes for money) being placed on the market. In the sale of their exports they will in few cases get higher rates from the foreign buyers, in consequence of the depreciated currency—or at least will do so only after great losses have been already incurred. In this way these fitful issues of paper money, which in point of fact amount to neither more nor less than forced loans made at the absolute will of the Government, must always exercise a most pernicious and dangerous effect upon the trade of the country; while the results of such action externally will, if possible, be even more pernicious. Japan has a fairly good standing at present in the money markets of the world; but if it become known that she is resorting to capricious and unrestrained issue of paper money, her credit must be most seriously impaired; and thus, for the sake of a small immediate advantage, the Japanese Government will run the risk of permanently debarring themselves from the great financial benefits which Japan has hitherto been able to derive from her ability to obtain loans from time to time in European markets. These considerations are so obvious that it can hardly be supposed they have altogether escaped the notice of so shrewd a set of people as Japanese Financial Ministers undoubtedly are; but they appear unfortunately in this as in many other things to be a little too much inclined to follow American example, forgetting that it is possible for a powerful and thoroughly established nation like the United States to do things which it may be very dangerous for a nation like Japan, which is new in regard to its connection with European countries, to attempt. The United States, with its marvellous energy and resources, has got over its financial difficulties, including its paper currency; but it has long recognised the wisdom of doing away with paper, and only resorted to the step after the gravest deliberation, and as a matter of pressing necessity. For Japan to attempt a similar policy will

certainly be a most dangerous experiment, and it is to be hoped that she will see the true bearing of the course she seems inclined to enter upon. At the very least, all issues of paper money should be made in the most public manner possible, and due notice be given of them, so that at all events a *minimum* amount of disturbance to trade may be produced when the paper is put into circulation.

THE COLONY OF SAIGON.

A PAPER, in which the prospects of the French Colony of Saigon are discussed, appears in the *Journal du Commerce Maritime*, from the pen of M. G. VINSON. He deals with much force and in an evidently impartial spirit with the past history, the present state and the future prospects of the Colony. With respect to the past, M. VINSON advocates a policy in which we imagine he will find very few to follow him, and of the inadvisability of which we think he himself gives the best proof in the paper under notice. At the risk of appearing somewhat "antideluvian," he expresses his regret that the Government did not from the first protect French commerce and the French shipping trade by customs and other dues—which he considers would have been the best way to secure French prosperity and to propagate French commerce, ideas and language. This he thinks would have averted the present state of affairs, which, as is well known to those who have paid attention to the subject, has long been a matter of regret to the French, namely, that the Colony of Saigon has of late become a very painful exemplification of the proverb *Sic vos non vobis*. At no time, he points out, has Cochin China produced more rice, and at no time has the rice been sought at higher prices than at present; but nevertheless the French do not benefit by this prosperity. Beyond doubt the Asiatics have become enriched, and are daily becoming more enriched; every day comfort and well being increase for them. But it is equally certain that they alone are benefited by this increase of riches, and that the French shipping and local trade scarcely take any part in it. "All our 'crops,'" he says, "are carried off for China, the Philippines and India, by English, American and German 'steamers'; the French have no steamers in these seas, and the Messageries Maritimes only carry on the direct and 'regular trade.' The Government had nothing to do with this, as it could not prevent the substitution of steamers for sailing vessels, or bring French steamers to do what is being done by those of other nations. Export trade is described as being equally unsatisfactory. It is in the hands of the Chinese, who have long been in relation with the Annamites and Cambodians, to whom they are more nearly allied in manners, language, and religion than Europeans can be. Finally, with regard to Insurance and Banking, the bulk of the business is out of the hands of Frenchmen. If the drafts are drawn on Hong Kong they may pass through the French Bank, but if upon Manila, Singapore, or Canton, it is by the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank or some Chinese Bank that the bills are negotiated. All these circumstances are deplored by M. VINSON, and though he holds there is no immediate remedy for this disappointing state of affairs, he considers there is hope for the future in the cultivation of the large and productive lands that can be obtained, and he hails the formation of a Company for this purpose. It is only the initiative period that need be feared. This past, the rest will come "as if by enchantment." Thus he considers there is no reason to despair of the prosperity of the commercial interests of France in Cochin China, but, on the contrary, the Colony, thanks to the policy pursued by Admiral DUPERRE, has entered upon "a 'rational way, the initiation of new cultivations more 'rich than those hitherto made by the Annamites.' Of the advisability of the policy which has been thus inaugurated there can be little doubt but it must be carried out in a spirit very different from the protection which M. VINSON admires in the opening of his article, to give it any chance of success. So far, we think, from its being a source of regret that a liberal commercial policy has been inaugurated in Saigon, it would appear that such limited prosperity as the Colony has hitherto enjoyed is mainly due to its having afforded facilities to those who, as the facts prove, could develop its trade. It is very much open to doubt whether the trade itself could have borne such protective imposts as would have been necessary in order

to keep it in the hands of Frenchmen, and by far the wiser course is to endeavour to adopt a liberal policy, so as to attract those who have more enterprise than the French have generally themselves in foreign countries. This we have always understood has been the base line of the policy which has been recently inaugurated with a view to developing the agricultural resources of Cochin China, and this end will assuredly be best attained by affording to all equal facilities and protection, and thus aiding them in the production of wealth, which may become a profitable source of revenue to the Government.

IN the course of a lecture on our relations with Japan Mr. B. STEWART LANE, the secretary to the Japanese Legation, suggests that it is unfair to insist upon the continuance of the present tariff of duties on foreign trade in that country, as while the Japanese are bound by it, England remains free to impose such duties as she thinks fit. He considered it was not equitable that we should charge a duty of about 50 per cent. on tea here, while the Japanese could only charge 5 per cent. on imports into their country. The remarks are worthy of notice in conjunction with the news brought by the last mail from Japan, to the effect that the Japanese Government contemplates demanding a revision of the tariff. The whole subject will, however, have to be very carefully considered in all its bearings before any decision can be arrived at. Whatever view may be ultimately adopted, it will be impossible to deviate widely from the basis of the present tariff, without disturbing trade in such a manner as cannot fail to be dangerous and undesirable.

WE hear that the Customs' authorities have not been asleep under the recent Adulteration Act, which, whatever its defects, is sufficient to be put into practical effect in important cases, and is producing some good in stopping ~~rewards of spurious tea which still occasionally find their way to this market.~~ Recently some shipments from Macao of "Tayshan District Leaf"—in which spurious matter was mixed—have been stopped by the Customs as unfit for consumption here. It is to be hoped that this vigilance will have the effect of once for all convincing merchants in China that it is useless to run the risk of purchasing teas of extremely low grade, which, even if not adulterated, are too common for home consumption. It rests entirely with the European buyers to check these practices, as the Chinese will soon cease to bring such teas down, if foreigners refuse to look at them, and recognise the simple fact that "Congee"—that is a mixture of rice and gum—coloured up to represent tea must be dear at any price.

WE understand that notwithstanding the urgent representations of General Sir FRANCIS COLBORNE and the officers engaged in the Perak Campaign no distribution of field allowances or batta money have as yet been made. In our issue of April 16 we reported the answer given by Mr. HARDY, the Secretary of War, in which it will be found that a distinct promise was then made that the officers and troops engaged in that campaign should be awarded the same advantages as those engaged in Abyssinia. We do trust that Mr. HARDY will see at once to the settlement of this matter. Since the Perak campaign the War-office has had comparative leisure, and the delay appears to the public to be quite inexcusable. We may mention that the leave of General COLBORNE, commander of the forces in Hong Kong and the Straits, and who is now in this country, expires next May.

THE *Daily News*, in noticing the closure of the Woosung Railway, adheres to the position which it has persistently taken up, that it was an error of judgment to act without the sanction of the Government, a view of whose soundness, judging from an ordinary standpoint, there can certainly be no question. The only answer to the argument is that, had that course been adopted, the railway would never have been in existence; and an opportunity of inducing the Chinese to take this step in the direction of progress would have been irrevocably lost. We are glad, however, to find that the *Daily News* recognises the benefit which the railway will be to the Chinese; and,

alluding to the probability that the line may yet be reopened, expresses the opinion that all well-wishers of China cannot fail to hope that this may prove to be the case.

SIR THOMAS WADE has shown an apt appreciation of Chinese character in some remarks which he made at Liverpool when speaking, in conjunction with the Bishop of MANCHESTER, upon education. He stated, as is undoubtedly the case, that the Chinese system of education fortified the memory, but when a Chinaman deviated from his own groove the system provided him with no authority for solving a new problem. Notwithstanding this tendency of the Chinese mind, it is surprising with what facility Chinese adapt themselves to new circumstances when they see any practical advantage to be derived from doing so.

A REMARK which is incidentally made in the account given by a Rangoon paper of the journey of Lieut. GILL from Shanghai to Rangoon is worthy of notice, as showing how little there is in the arguments of those who constantly urge that European civilisation will be a detriment, instead of a boon, to Asiatic nations. Comparing Native and British Burmah, Lieut. GILL and Mr. MESNEY, by whom he was joined in the later part of his journey, state that the cultivated fields and contented looks of the people in the latter contrasted markedly with what they saw in the former.

WE understand that Admiral RYDER who has been relieved by Admiral HILLYAR on the China Station will return to England by the Pacific route and may probably call at the Russian ports *en route*. The members of his Staff are on board the P. and O. steamer for Southampton.

THE appeal case of DE BUSSCHE *v.* ALT has been further postponed, and will not come on again till next month. The case of the appellant had been concluded before the last adjournment.

Correspondence.

THE CHEFOO CONVENTION.

(To the Editor of the *London and China Telegraph*.)

SIR,—I have read the letter signed "A China Merchant," also the letter of Messrs. Michie and Barnes, and I remain entirely unconvinced that manufactured goods are placed in any worse position than under the present treaty; on the contrary, I submit it is notorious that the Chinese have rightly or wrongly levied lekin on these goods in the so-called concessions for many years past, and therefore the exemption now secured for this local trade is decidedly to our advantage; particularly in the case of Shanghai, where at least three-fourths of the native traders in manufactured goods live in the concession. As to lekin outside the limits of the concessions it may continue to be imposed as at present, but it is evident that dealers will at once avail themselves of the immunity enjoyed in the settlements should any but trifling levies be asked. Goods in transit are protected by Art. 28 of the Treaty of Tientsin, which is confirmed and materially enlarged by Art. 4 section 3 of the Chefoo Convention. If traders neglecting these regulations send their goods away from the concessions without paying the 2½ per cent. transit duty, entitling them to the transit pass, and then find they are subject to lekin or other dues, they have only themselves to blame. I now live on the Mediterranean, where Italy divides from France, and have this very day been unpleasantly reminded that China is not the only country which collects a tax on goods varying at different places, and not, I believe, authorised by the treaties with Great Britain—I allude to the octroi, which in some respects resembles lekin.—I am, &c.,
Palazzo Oreno, near Mentone, THOMAS HANBURY.
Dec. 10, 1877.

Literature, Science, &c.

China, Historical and Descriptive. By CHARLES H. EDEN. London: Marcus Ward and Co., Chandos-street.—This little book conveys an excellent general idea of China and its people, and although it does not present anything very new to those already acquainted with the country, it will at the same time be perused by many as a pleasant reminder of old familiar scenes and events. Mr. Eden gives a sketch of the Taiping Rebellion, and reproduces a harrowing description of the barbarous cruelties perpetrated by the Imperialists on the rebel prisoners. He blames England for having aided in the suppression of the Taiping Rebellion; but we think overlooks the fact that similar if not worse atrocities were perpetrated by the rebels, and so far from countenancing them, Colonel Gordon

did all in his power to prevent them, and ultimately threw up his commission on account of the treachery displayed towards the Rebel chiefs on the capture of Soochow. It is quite open to question whether our interference was not a political mistake ; but England cannot be branded with the responsibility of atrocities which it was impossible for her to prevent. The illustrations in the book are truthful and well executed ; but in one or two instances the subjects are not very well selected. For instance, the China woman given at page 170 wears a handkerchief, an article not worn generally in China, and adopted only by a limited number of boat-women and others at the Treaty ports and at Hong Kong, where cheap handkerchiefs from Manchester in imitation of the native fabric, can be obtained.

Our Opium Trade with China. By SAMUEL S. MANDER. London : Simpkin, Marshall and Co.—The above pamphlet is a reproduction of a series of letters which were some time back written by its author in a local newspaper, and which will be re-collected by our readers. Mr. Mander is a strong anti-opiumist, and earnestly advocates the total suppression of the traffic.

Sutton's Amateur Horticulture Guide.—The number of this Annual for 1878 is, though taking the modest form of a trade pamphlet, really a work of art, the drawings of the various flowers and vegetables (many of them coloured) being most excellently executed. The information which the book contains will be invaluable to the increasing number of amateur horticulturists in China, Japan and other parts of the Far East, where many of the plants and vegetables noticed have already been successfully introduced.

CHINA AND KASHGAR.

Advices received at St. Petersburg announce the arrival of the Chinese General Tso-tsou-tsou at Kotubi, a place between the towns of Manas and Sheeko. Further progress has been arrested by an epidemic among his troops, which is stated to have decimated them. The disease, called by the Kashgarians "vuoba," has a great affinity to cholera, and was brought with the army from the captured Dou-gan fortress of Toorfan. Bek-Kuli-Beg, being fearful of catching the contagion from the enemy, has stopped his march for a while. Unless further reinforcements arrive for the Chinese, the Emir believes that disease will soon reduce the disparity of force caused by the breechloaders with which the Celestial troops are armed, and he will then be in a good position to repel the invasion. Should Tso-tsou-tsou experience a defeat he would have considerable difficulty in effecting his escape to China, as the whole population of the subjugated Doutungan district would rise up against him. The Chinese General continues his horrible atrocities at Manas and Toorfan unchecked.

Intelligence from Turkestan announces the arrival at Tashkant of Mahmoud-Khan, the envoy from the Emir of Kashgar, charged with a special mission to General Kaufman. The envoy is accompanied by Mirza-Mirkazeem, who was attached to the Kashgarian Embassy despatched by the late Yakoob Beg, and who is stated to speak Russian tolerably well.

OVERLAND FROM CHINA TO BURMAH.

The Rangoon *Daily Review* publishes an account of a journey recently made by Lieutenant Gill, R.E., from Shanghai to Rangoon. The journey had no official character, and was made by Lieutenant Gill on his own responsibility. The *Review* says :—

Shanghai was left in February last, and the journey to Hankow made in a steamer. From Hankow Lieutenant Gill went to Chung King at the invitation of Mr. Baber, and then a trip was made northwards for a little distance. At Tsai-liu-tsing the fire-wells were seen. These wells go down some 3,000 feet below the surface, and an inflammable gas finds its way out of them. It is supposed the strata has a bed of petroleum under it. There are brine wells also in the place, and these go down to about the same depth. The natives manufacture excellent salt out of the brine. From Tsai-liu-tsing Mr. Gill went to Cheng-tu, from thence to Sung-pan-ting, on the borders of Coconoor, and on to Liung-nganfu. The return to Chenn-tu was made by a different route. Here Mr. Gill remained till he was joined by Mr. Mesny, of the Chinese service, and then the two began the long, perilous, and arduous journey to Burmah overland. Chung-tu was left on July 10, and on the 25th of the same month Tachien-lu was reached, distant about 291 miles. Here the travellers met a body of Roman Catholics, and a French Roman Catholic Bishop, from whom they received much kindness. After a halt of about a fortnight the station was left for Li-tang, which was made in two days. The next station was Ba-thang, some 307 miles from Ta-chin-lu, and this was reached on August 25. Ba-thang is almost in the thirtieth degree of latitude, and quite on the borders of Thibet. From Ba-thang the travellers went to Atun-tze, a distance of one hundred and seventy miles, which they reached on Sept. 5. Atun-tze was left on Sept. 9, and Talifu reached on the 21st of the same month, a distance of three hundred and sixty-one miles being traversed. From Talifu the next station was Man-wyne, which they got to on Oct. 24. Bhamo was reached on the 1st of this month, Mr. Cooper kindly sending on his boat to meet the intrepid tourists. Mr. Gill speaks of the natives as quiet and far from hostile. But he describes that part of the journey from the point at which he was joined by Mr. Mesny as very arduous, graphically comparing it to "continually going up a staircase." Roads there are none, the way consisting of mere tracks through a rocky, mountainous country. In the neighbourhood of Ba-thang ranges were crossed some 15,600 feet high. The scenery in this direction, and in

deed all through, is said to be very pretty. The most common tree near Ba-thang was the pine, which in some places was seen in magnificent forests, and the trunks of many of which were about three feet in diameter. On their way down from Mandalay it is said these gentlemen were much struck at the difference between the two political sections of the country—Native and British Burmah. In the latter the cultivated fields, smiling homesteads, and contented looks of the people offered a striking contrast to what obtained in the other.

OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN.

The last of a series of four lectures upon "War and Commerce," in connection with the Trade-Guild of Learning, was delivered on the 17th inst., by Mr. B. Stewart Lane, the secretary to the Japanese Legation, at the Vestry Hall, King's-road, Chelsea, the subject being "Our Relations with Japan." Professor Leon Levi, the chairman, introduced the lecturer, who, after glancing at the history of Japan and the characteristics of the country and people, referred to the treaty of 1858 negotiated by Lord Elgin. He praised the moderation of the treaty as a temporary arrangement, but thought that the time had arrived when it should be revised on a more equitable basis to the advantage of both countries. Consular jurisdiction at the time the treaty was signed was a necessity, and its partial continuance was still required, but it was, he urged, unfair to insist upon the continuance of the tariff by the Japanese, as it prevented changes by them, whilst England was at liberty to act freely. In 1858 this country charged an import duty on tea amounting to 150 per cent. on its cost, whilst a duty equal to 50 per cent. was still maintained. The tea exported by Japan during the year 1875 was valued at over \$7,000,000, or upwards of one-third of this total exports from the country. The Japanese were, however, restricted to charging only 5 per cent. on imports from the country. It was an excusable error on the part of foreigners to suppose that the murders of Englishmen in Japan were attributable to the action of the Tycoon, the fact being that the opposition to foreigners had arisen from a wish to create difficulties, in order to bring about the fall of the Tycoonate, which had long been the aim of many of the feudal lords. Whilst referring to the circumstances which had led to the bombardment of Kagoshima and the capture of the forts of Sim-n-saki, he condemned the course which had been adopted, particularly in regard to the indemnities extracted from the Government of the Tycoon. Passing to our relations with Japan, he called attention to the progress made by that country, and referring to the opening up of the country to foreign trade he asserted that it would take place so soon as by a proper revision of existing arrangements it could safely be done without exposing the Japanese Government to difficulties with us. The Government, he thought, should have power to settle cases which did not involve the liberty of English subjects. A policy of conciliation which would inspire confidence was required on the part of this country, and towards this end he suggested several measures. In conclusion, he expressed his disbelief in the unmanly prediction of Mr. Bright, that the Indian Empire would soon cease to be under the control of England, expressing his conviction, however, that the great Asian problem would soon have to be faced, and that whatever form it assumed we should be wise to make, by our conduct, friends, instead of enemies, amongst the Eastern nations, so that whatever our shortcomings might have been in the past, the beneficial influences of the British Empire might be felt in the future.

THE CEYLON COMPANY.

The half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held on the 18th inst., at the offices, Palmerston-buildings ; Mr. Lawford Ackland in the chair. The Secretary having read the notice calling the meeting, the report was taken as read.

The Chairman said that although the directors had not thought it right to propose a dividend, yet the report was not altogether unsatisfactory, since a fair profit had been realised on the Ceylon branch of the company. But, as stated in the report, the results of the operations in the Mauritius were not yet known, and that was the reason the directors had considered it prudent to abstain from paying an interim dividend. In regard to Mauritius the fact was that one estate which owed a large sum of money had turned out disappointingly, and would add to the loss. Two other agencies would also add to their debts in all probability, but the nine others would pay their expenses and reduce their debts. The company's own assets in Mauritius had yielded considerable profits. The price of sugar in Mauritius up to the last advices had been very good, being rather higher than in the same period of last year, which was, of course, satisfactory. Three of their estates had been sold in Ceylon. One, the Keenakella, had realised a profit of about £11,000. The other two had been taken over in payment of a debt, and had yielded very little profit. However, they had been sold for more than they had been valued at. The present price of coffee in London was very good, probably owing to the certainty that the crop would be an exceeding small one in the coming year. In Mauritius they had sold the Auchendrayne estate, but the money had not as yet been paid. However, the company still held the estate as security. They had also sold their Albion Dock shares, which, although they had yielded a good profit during the time the company had held them, were not exactly the property of a company of that kind ought to invest in ; and having an opportunity of getting rid of them at their full amount the directors had sold them. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report.

Mr. P. F. Robertson seconded the motion. Mr. Maitland considered the report as being on the whole satisfactory. Mr. Butler Johnstone thought that the shareholders had no reason to be satisfied with the management, and unless there was some change for the better before the next meeting he would be disposed to move for a committee of inquiry.

The report was then adopted, and the proceedings terminated.

Monetary and Commercial.

The letters of allotment of the Chinese Loan of 1877 were posted Thursday. The total amount of subscriptions for London and China has, it is stated, amounted to nearly £4,000,000 sterling.

The Stock Exchange Committee have appointed the 28th inst., a special settling day in the Four and a-Half per Cent. Debentures (£100,000) of the Straits Settlements (Singapore, Penang, and Malacca) Government, which are to be marked in the official list.

The final arrangements for the carrying out of the works of the Hong Kong Sugar Refining Company have been successfully completed.

Considerable transactions in Tea have taken place during the past week, and quotations are now falling into their relative proportions in place of the irregularity so long one of the most unsatisfactory features of the market. The imports for the present month will be exceptionally small, and will not reach ten million pounds, whereas last year during this month the import reached twenty millions. The excess of deliveries for the twelve months over 1876 will reach the unprecedented figure of ten million pounds, which is accounted for by the large shipments to Russia, and which will continue for some time yet. The proposed resumption of duty on Tea to the extent of 10 cents per lb. in the United States has caused some little inquiry for low Greens and Ooloongs for shipment to that country. The latest telegrams from China speak of an absolute deficiency of 15,000,000 lbs. in the exports; and the total receipts are likely to be decreased by 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 lbs. more as compared with last year by the fact that no Japan leaf will be received, the losses reaching from 40 to 50 per cent. on that imported. The political events of the last few days are likely to play an important part in the future supplies of the leaf, and are commencing to attract attention on the part of the trade.

For the week ended the 15th inst. the total quantity of tea delivered from the bonded warehouses in London showed a failing from the previous week of 514,944 lbs., or 12½ per cent., the total being 3,485,893 lbs., of which 2,193,309 lbs. was for home consumption; 807,423 lbs. was removed coastwise, 380,153 lbs. was exported, 101,088 lbs. was sent coastwise for exportation, and 3,720 lbs. was for ships' stores. During the week the amount paid was £5,022, against £60,000, a decrease of £5,865, or 9½ per cent.

The tone of the Silk market has continued upwards, and a fair business has been done at very firm rates, especially in Japans, in which large transactions have taken place at an advance of 1s. In Cantons there has been a good inquiry for No. 4 at 13s. 6d. Within the last day or two the market has been less active, consequent upon the adverse political news; but apart from such extraneous influence, there is no doubt that it would continue firm and upward.

Notwithstanding the heavy stocks in Shanghai, the shipments of iron to that port continue upon an extremely large scale, and it is to be feared that they will be sufficient to do away with all chance of the markets giving satisfactory results.

In the Produce Markets the general condition of trade is without improvement, and most articles remain flat, the present unfavourable aspect of political affairs having an adverse influence upon many. Coffee has been less active, and has declined 2s. per cwt. from the highest point of last week. Sugar exhibits a slight recovery from the recent depression. Cargoes of new Burmah Rice have been sold at a decline upon previously current values. Tin has slightly declined, Straits being quoted £66 10s., Banca £71 per ton. Gambier, Pepper, and Spices show a declining tendency. Sago and Tapioca are quiet but firm.

Our readers will be glad to learn that recent telegrams from Singapore quote gambier "new terms." It is to be hoped, therefore, that the action of the Singapore merchants, and the support given to it here, have been successful in putting an end to what had become a scandal and disgrace to the trade, and that the last has now been heard of the frightful adulteration of this article. We are also informed that a telegram was received on Thursday to the effect that the stoppage in business was practically at an end, and that the dealers had given in to the extent of delivering the gambier and pepper at the godowns.

The Leesh River Tea Company (Limited) is announced, with a capital of £15,000, in shares of £10 each, it having been formed for the purpose of acquiring land and growing tea in the Western Dooars, a district lying at the foot of the Bhootan Hills, in Bengal; the Northern Bengal Railway, just opened, having brought it within forty-eight hours of Calcutta, thus giving it great advantages over both Assam and Cachar. The Western Dooars are stated to be especially suitable, as regards climate, soil, and facilities of labour, for the cultivation of tea. The company has acquired about 1,300 acres of land on the junction of the Leesh and Teesta River on leases from the Government of India, at small progressive rents amounting in the fifth year to 12 annas (about 1s. 4d.) per acre, the leases being renewable every twenty years at a rent not exceeding the rate of rent paid per acre in the neighbourhood at the time for the highest class of land under ordinary arable cultivation. Lieut.-Colonel Money has been appointed managing director,

The market for Bar Silver was for a few days very steady at 53½d. It has since become somewhat firmer, and business has been done at 53½d., and 54d. may be quoted as the nearest price. Mexican Dollars, owing to higher exchanges from China, have also improved in value, and have been placed at 53d. per oz.

DOCUMENTARY AND PRIVATE BILLS.

			60 days sight.
Colombo	...	...	1s. 8½d. —
Singapore	...	...	3s. 9½d. to 3s. 9½d.
Hong Kong	...	...	3s. 9½d. to 3s. 9½d.
Shanghai	...	...	5s. 2½d. to 5s. 2½d.

BULLION QUOTATIONS.

Bar Gold	...	...	77s. 9d. —	per oz.
United States Gold Coin	...	...	76s. 5d. to 76s. 6½d.	per oz.
German Gold Coin	...	...	76s. 3½d. —	per oz.
Bar Silver, Fine	...	...	4s. 6d. —	per oz.
Bar Silver contg. 5 grs. Gold	...	...	4s. 6½d. —	per oz.
Mexican Dollars	...	...	4s. 5d. —	per oz.

EXPORT OF SILVER TO CHINA AND THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

FROM SOUTHAMPTON.

Year.	China.	Straits.
1874	£1,658,855	£1,484,831
1875	723,894	870,120
1876	1,273,757	758,461
1877 to date	1,727,875	1,398,833
1877 to date	£20,000	—

ARTICLES OF IMPORT.

TEA.

Messrs. Layton and Co.'s report upon Thursday's sales is as follows:—2,672 packages were sold without reserve as under:—1,157 half-chests Congou, at 9d. to 1s. 6d. per lb.; 282 flowered boxes Congou, 11d. to 11½d.; 325 flowered boxes Pecco Congou, 11d. to 11½d.; 109 half-chests and cases Gunpowder, 1s. 5½d. to 2s. 11½d.; 11 half-chests Imperial, 6½d. to 8½d.; 65 half-chests Young Hyson, 6½d. to 1s. 0½d.; 31 half-chests and cases Yunnan, 7½d. to 2s. 4½d.; 692 boxes Ping Suey Gunpowder, 10½d. to 1s. 10½d. Good common black leaf in matted half-chests sold at 9d. to 9½d. but 355 half-chests medium ex "Khiva," at 10½d. to 10½d., were a penny under rates in the private market. Good qualities of red leaf were not competed for, and went below valuations and market quotation. The remainder of the sale comprised fine lines of Moyune and Ping Suey, the latter, quality considered, sold at low prices. The usual auction will not be held next week. In looking back to our series of unprotected sales the chief feature to notice since arrival of the new season's teas is the want of competition, and the almost unvaried low scale of prices realised for all classes except common compared with private sales.

SILK.

The market has been active, and prices of all descriptions have advanced. The deliveries continue on a fairly satisfactory scale. The deliveries from 1st to 19th inst. inclusive have been:—China, 1,432 bales; Canton, 346 bales; Japan, 583 bales; Bengal, 56 bales; Total, 2,417 bales.

LONDON QUOTATIONS.

CHINA.				
Tsatile, No. 1	...	...	...	21s. 6d. to 23s. 0d.
" No. 2	...	...	...	21s. 0d. to 21s. 6d.
" No. 3	...	...	...	20s. 0d. to 21s. 0d.
" Blue Elephant	...	...	...	19s. 0d.
Yuenfa and Hainin, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	...	17s. 6d. to 20s. 0d.
Taysan and Kaying, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	...	16s. 6d. to 20s. 0d.
Long Reel	...	...	...	10s. 0d. to 18s. 6d.
Canton	...	...	...	12s. 6d. to 17s. 6d.
Chinese Thrown	...	...	...	15s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.
JAPAN.				
Muibasi and Sinchu, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	...	18s. 0d. to 22s. 6d.
Idhi, (None)	...	...	...
Sodhi, No. 3	...	...	...	18s. 0d. to 19s. 0d.
Oshiu, Nos. 1, 2, and 3	...	...	...	18s. 0d. to 20s. 6d.
Amatski	...	...	...	15s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.
Kakiduk	...	...	...	20s. 0d. to 22s. 0d.
Hatcho-gee	...	...	...	14s. 0d. to 16s. 0d.
Mashai	...	...	...	15s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.
Accezan	...	...	...	15s. 0d. to 17s. 0d.

COFFEE.—The proposal to increase the duties in Austria having been indefinitely postponed, the demand on that account has entirely disappeared, and as the effect of the improved condition of French politics has been counteracted by the anticipation that this country may be compelled to go to war, the market has gradually become depressed, and prices have generally given way. Light supplies of Plantation Ceylon at auction have found a very slow sale at gradually declining prices, closing about 2s. lower for the past week; new crop, after selling much above its value in relation to other kinds (middling to fine at 10½s. to 11½s. 6d., with bold at 11½s. to 12½s.) has, with slightly increased supplies, quickly given way, middling to fine closing at 10½s. 6d. to 11s. Only a small business has been done in Native, good ordinary at 82s. 6d. Quotations are:—Plantation triage 78s. to 89s., small 90s. to 98s., low middling 100s. to 102s., middling 103s. to 106s., good middling to bold dull 107s. to 112s., berry 106s. 6d. to 112s.; new crop small 90s. to 97s. 6d., low middling 100s. 6d. to 105s., middling to fine bright 105s. 6d. to 114s., good to very fine bold colour 114s. to 128s., berry 110s. to 118s. 6d.; Native Ceylon, ordinary mixed, 82s. 6d. Of other East India 144 bags pale Indian Manila sold at 84s. and 149 bags Singapore, picked Bally, were bought in at 79s. per cwt. It has been resolved that the public sales should close on the 20th inst., to be resumed on Jan. 3.

COTTON.—During the week gradually increasing quietness has prevailed, sales have fallen off, and last week's advance has been lost

The market closes with a dull tone, more particularly for future American, in which the bulk of the business is transacted, and quotations are slightly cheaper than a fortnight ago. The sales for the fortnight have been about 29,500 bales. On the spot:—Tinnevelly 6d. to 6½d., good fair to good; Western Madras 5½d. to 5d., fair to good; Coco-nada 5½d. to 5d., good fair; Dhollera 5 1/2-6d., fair; Scinde 5d. to 5½d., good fair to good; Salem 5½d.; Bengal 4 13-16d. to 5d., fair to good; Rangoon 4½d. to 5d., fair to good. For arrival:—Tinnevelly 5d. to 6d. August to November, good fair; Western Madras, 5 3 1/2d. to 5d., April-June, good fair new; Coco-nada 5½d. to 5d., September to February, fair red.

CHINA STRAW PLAIT.—At auction 204 bales sold at full prices, chiefly White, at £10 5s. to £13 10s., good and fine qualities £14 5s. to £22 5s., with cord edge at £13 10s. to £19 5s., Rustic £8 10s. per bale.

CHINA FEATHERS.—At auction of 215 bales 30 bales sold (without reserve) at 2½d. to 8½d., one lot 2s. 11d.

COCONUT OIL has been steady, Cochin at £43, Ceylon in pipes at £38 10s.

GAMBIER.—Of the large supply of 2,555 bags free cubes offered by auction, about 1,000 bags sold at easier rates, fine pale 29s., chiefly sea-damaged, first-class blocky to good pale Java sort 25s. 6d. to 27s., 368 bags pressed ditto bought in at 26s. 6d., 106 broken bales and 6 tons loose block bought in at 18s. 6d. per cwt. Two tons (loose and broken bales) chiefly sold at 16s. 9d. to 17s. 3d., 465 bags cubes bought in at 28s. to 29s.

HEMP.—The market for Manila is steady, with a fair business doing privately at firm rates. A small supply at auction was partly disposed of at steady prices. Of 277 bales offered, 165 bales sold, fine brown Cebu at £26, good fair to good at £26 10s. to £27, the remainder being bought in, including fine white Lupiz at £26.

HIDES.—At the periodical public sales Thursday, a small quantity and indifferent assortment of East India in the hair was brought forward at these, the concluding sales of the year. The Bengal offered were chiefly remnants from previous catalogues, and those sold brought late rates. There was a slightly improved demand for Bombay and Kurrachee, and prices were frequently 2d. per lb. above those of the previous sales. Cochin, likewise, were in rather better request. Singapore Ox and Cow could not be disposed of at last sales' rates, and were mostly bought in. China Ox and Cow were only partly sold without change in value. Of 2,775 dry China offered 275 sold: heavy average 14½lb. 7½d.; extra heavy, average 22½lb. 7½d.; kips, average 7½lb. 7d. per lb. Buffalo: Singapore were in good request and brought full prices, particularly the lighter averages and level Hides. For Penang slaughtered the biddings fell short of late value by 2d. per lb., and none were sold. Low prices were accepted for the Rangoon, Bombay, Kurrachee, and Cochin brought a slight advance. Of 5,504 Singapore and Penang offered 5,083 sold: Fair to good, first heavy, average 25½ to 33½ lbs., 5½d. to 5d.; second heavy, average 25½ to 30½ lbs., 4½d. to 5d.; first light, average 14½ lbs., 6d.; heavy, average 27 lbs., 5½d.; light, average 9½ to 12½ lbs., 5d. to 6d.; ordinary, first heavy, average 31½ to 41½ lbs., 4½d. to 5½d. per lb. Of 1,200 Rangoon 468 sold: Light and small, average 8½ to 15½ lbs., 5d.; heavy, average 39 lbs., 4d.; third, 3½d. per lb.

JAPAN WAX.—288 cases offered at auction were bought in, bold saucer 55s., squares 52s.

PEPPER.—*Black*: A moderate business has been done privately at 3 3-16d. for Penang, and 3½d. to 3 9-16d. for Singapore. A total of 3,171 bags at the public sales went off slowly, and only a small part sold at easier rates; of 1,982 bags Singapore 870 bags sold, sound at 3½d., first-class sea-damaged at 3½d. to 3½d., 1,189 bags Penang bought in at 3½d. After the sale 400 bags Singapore were sold at 3½d. White remains very quiet. Only 80 bags Singapore were brought to auction, of which 50 bags fair sold at 6d.

PLUMBAGO.—107 barrels Ceylon dust partly sold at 9s. to 9s. 6d. per cwt., being firmer. 128 barrels (from the Cape) sold, good small lump at 13s. 3d. to 13s. 6d., dust 8s. 6d.

RATTANS.—At auction 80 tons were partly sold, Penang at £20, Singapore £12 2s. 6d. to £23 2s. 6d., including first-class sea-damaged.

RICE.—The market has been quiet, but about 4,000 tons new Burmah have been sold, February-March-April shipment, basis Rangoon, at 8s. 10½d. open charter, or 8s. 9d. London ex ship. A steamer cargo of new crop Rangoon has been sold for spring shipment at about 9s. 7½d. open charter. At auction about 10,000 bags badly-damaged Bassein, per A. D. Cooper, were sold from £1 17s. 6d. to £3 10s. per ton. For arrival 100 tons Necranse, indirect shipment from Calcutta, have been sold at 9s. quail.

SUGAR.—The market has been characterised by a steadier demand for common brown as well as better refining kinds, and prices are firmer. The business in East Indian descriptions has been as follows:—On the 14th inst. in auction 914 bags 652 baskets low to fair brown Native Penang were bought in at 14s. to 14s. 6d., but 100 baskets afterwards sold at 14s. 8,161 bags China were bought in above the value, clayed brown at 17s. to 19s., yellow at 20s. On the 15th 2,000 bags brown China were sold at 16s. 6d. On the 17th 300 baskets brown Native Penang sold at 14s. 3d. On the 18th, in auction, of 1,220 bags grainy grocery Penang, 200 bags sold at 25s. 6d. Privately 4,000 bags Formosa China sold at 14s. 6d.; also 6,000 bags strong China at 18s. 6d. On the 20th privately 500 bags grocery grainy Penang sold at 25s. 6d., and 500 bags common brown Native at 14s. The floating cargo per Windsbraut, 2,100 baskets Java, No. 13½, sold at 25s. for France.

SPICES.—*Cinnamon*: 64 boxes China coarse quill were bought in at 6d. *Cinnamon Chiis*: 479 bags Ceylon bought in at 4½d. to 5½d. *Cloves*: No sales. *Nutmegs*: Fine bold continue firm, but medium and small are rather easier; 22 cases Penang were chiefly sold, extra bold, average 60 nuts to the lb. at 5s., 7½s. at 4s., 90's at 2s. 2½s., 100's at 2s. 5d. Of 52 cases Java 25 cases sold, 7½s. at 4s. 1d. to 4s. 2d., 140's at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10½d., defective at 9d. to 1s. 2d.; 10 cases Wild

Java sold at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., inferior at 10d., in shell at 9½d. Mace continues dull, and of 8 cases Java only 3 cases wormy and ordinary were sold at 1s. to 1s. 9d., 4 cases ordinary Java bought in at 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d., 1 case Wild Java sold at 4½d. per lb.

SAGO.—At public sale 878 bags met only lower offers, and were all bought in; small, at 17s. 6d.; medium, at 19s.; grey to good large at 22s. to 23s.; except 50 bags sea-damaged small, which sold at 15s. for first-class.

SAGO FLOUR.—880 bags Borneo were bought in at 17s., excepting 110 bags damaged, which were sold at 15s. 6d. to 16s. for first-class.

TAPIOCA.—The auctions comprised 1,166 bags Singapore, which were chiefly held firmly and bought in at 3d., only about 220 bags finding buyers; ordinary grey, at 2½d. to 2½d.; fair, at 2½d. to 2½d. *Pearl*: Of 137 bags offered 75 bags good bullets sold at 28s. to 28s. 6d., being cheaper; the remainder seed bought in at 24s. *Flour*: 137 bags of old import bought in at 1½d.

TIN.—The market has continued quiet, and prices exhibit a slight decline for the week; current quotations are as follows:—Straits on the spot and afloat £66 10s., Banca £71, Billiton £68 per ton.

ARTICLES OF EXPORT.

MANCHESTER GOODS.

Early in the week the market was inactive, although more inquiry for China makes of Goods and Yarns was apparent. At the close political matters seem to be adversely influencing the market all through, and the tone has been dull though not depressed. The moderate amount of business done shows prices tolerably steady, instances of concessions on producers' quotations being rare.

QUOTATIONS.

			s. d.	s. d.
Grey Shirtings	...	38s-39 in.	7lbs.	5 14
Do.	do.	...	8½lbs.	6 3
Do.	do.	44 45 in.	7½lbs.	5 11½
Do.	do.	...	8lbs.	6 10
Do.	do.	...	9lbs.	7 7½
Do.	do.	50 in.	10lbs.	8 11½
Grey T-Cloths	...	32 in.	6lbs.	4 5½
Do.	do.	...	7lbs.	4 9-16
Do.	(Mexicans)	...	7½lbs.	5 3 9-16
Do.	do.	36 in.	8lbs.	6 2 13-16
Madapollams	...	32 in.	21lb. 8oz.	9 2 5-16
Grey Jacquets	...	32 in.	21lb. 1oz.	2 5 17-32
Grey Drills	...	30 in.	14lbs.	8 5½
Grey Jeans	...	30 in.	8lbs.	6 8½
White Spot Shirtings	...	36 in.	...	9 6
Brocade	do.	36 in.	...	9 10½
Damasks	...	36 in.	...	16 8½
Water Twist (China quality)	16-24	...	0 9½	to 0 10
Do.	do.	28-32	...	0 10½
Do.	(Mock)	38-43	...	0 11

METALS.

IRON.—Welsh: Rails, £5 10s. to £5 15s.; Bars, £5 15s.; Staffordshire Best: Bars, £7 10s. to £8; Nail Rods, £7 to £7 15s.; Hoops, £7 15s. to £8 10s.; Sheets, £8 15s. to £10 10s.; Scotch Pig, No. 1, £2 14s. to £3 6s.; Swedes, Bars, Hammered, £10 to £10 10s.; Swedes, Steel in kegs, ½ and ½ in., £15 10s.

YELLOW METAL.—Sheets, 4 by 4 ft., 6½ in.; Sheathing and Rods, 6½d. to 6½d. per lb.

TIN.—English Refined, £74. Tin Plates: Charcoal IC, per box 20s. to 28s.; Coke IC, 17s. 6d. to 19s.

LEAD.—WB, £20; do., other brands, £19 15s.; Spanish soft, ex ship, £19; Sheet, £20 5s.; Shot (kegs extra), £24 10s.; White do., £26 to £26 10s.

SPelter.—Silesian, £19 5s. to £19 10s.

QUICKSILVER.—In bottles of 75 lbs. each, £7 5s.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From	At
Dec. 10	Annie Lewis	Morse	Samarang	Marseilles
11	Offerton	Fisher	Batavia	Helvoet
12	Siduram (s.)	Collins	Probolingo	Greenock
13	Margot	Bruhn	Singapore	Marseilles
14	Foscolo	McKeson	Samarang	F. (mouth)
15	Macunc	Reid	Rangoon	Greenock
16	Stanmore	Dudley	Hong Kong	London
17	Amaranth	Pringer	Singapore	Do.
18	Ago-tuno Merello	Michelino	Do.	Do.
19	Per Ardui	Taggart	Manila	Do.
20	Terrivenue	Nastare	Sourabaya	Do.
21	Windsbraut	Hoffmann	Java	Falmouth
22	Java	Berg trom	Cheribon	Do.
23	Charles R. Lewis	R. E.	Batavia	Do.
24	O'Tayen	Jordan	Singapore	London
25	Hester	Harris	Bangkok	Do.
26	Stanhope Queen	Le Lacheur	Amoy	Do.
27	Lyng Spur	Croot	Nagasaki	Do.
28	Gi-ebo-g	J. Johnson	Samarang	Yunniden
29	Jeanette M. Louisa	Urjens	Batavia	Do.
30	Denialion (s.)	Brown	Shanghai	London
31	Winsterne	Miller	Singapore	Do.
1	Andromeda	Lundberg	Batavia	Felix
2	Emilia	Akerman	Do.	Yunniden
3	Petra	Hurst	Penang	London
4	Scalo Barbino	Sanguineti	Akyab	Liverpool
5	Grace Charlie	Irvine	Rangoon	Queentown
6	Ethan Allou	Hardy	Singapore	New York
7	Consolation (s.)	—	Amoy, &c.	Do.
8	Stanhope	Davies	Cheribon	Greenock

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	For	From
Nov. 26	Galaten	Wright	Manila	San Francisco
Dec. 2	Rainbow	—	Yokohama	New York
10	Saga	Sylversparre	Singapore	Roan
12	Madeline (s.)	—	Do	Newcastle
13	Churchill	—	Do	Do
13	Sir Harry Parker	Chapman	Hong Kong	London
14	Red Deer	—	Penang	Shields
14	Onthakyle	Gordon	Yokohama	London
15	Bertie	Le Conteur	Singapore	Liverpool
15	Quet (s.)	Granger	Malaya	Do
15	Espiegle	Burress	To	Greenock
17	Vinton Gunther	Kuhn	Singapore	Cardiff
17	Josfa	Hornemann	Do	Do
18	Perin (s.)	Linton	Penang, &c.	London
18	Wax (s.)	Kidd	Do, &c.	Liverpool
18	Celebes (s.)	Bakker	Batavia	Southampton
18	Gebruder v. d. Beck	—	Sourabaya	Shields
19	Sedan	Schluter	Hong Kong	Cardiff

See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.				
Date.	Steamer.	From	to	
Dec. 18	Nestor	Liverpool	Penang, &c.	

CASUALTIES.

LONDON, DEC. 17.—On Dec. 15 a fire occurred on board the Alice D. Cooper, with rice, from Rangoon, lying in Millwall Dock. The cargo was greatly damaged, and the ship injured.

DEAL, DEC. 7.—Seven of the crew of the Ottawa, Sunderland for Penang, have been sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment for refusing duty; others have been shipped.

LIVERPOOL.—Dec. 18, the Cosmopolite, from Manila, at Santander; only cargo of this vessel was damaged by fire. [The previous report to which this telegram seems to refer has not been received.]

MALTA.—Dec. 15, the Glenfinlas (s.), from Chiua, for London, has just put in with crank shaft broken.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DEAL.—Dec. 17, under way, Oceanus, Holland for Batavia; 18, sailed, Ottawa, Sunderland for Penang.

DUNGENESS.—Dec. 15, off, Maibit, Batavia for Amsterdam.

FOLKESTONE.—Dec. 17, off, Hermes, Ad. If, both from Java for Amsterdam.

ISLE OF WIGHT.—Dec. 17, off, Elizabeth, Amsterdam for Batavia.

GIBRALTAR.—Dec. 17, passed, Prinses Amalia (str.), Batavia for Nieuw Diep; 18, Glenorchy (str.), London for Singapore, &c.

MALTA.—Arrived, Dec. 17, Torrington (str.), Batavia for Middelburg; Viarac Bat (str.), Liverpool for Manila; 18, passed, Glaucus (str.), China for Liverpool.

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At LONDON.—STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai: Glenroy. For Singapore, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Yokohama, and Hiogo: Glamis Castle. For Batavia: Woodburn.

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Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Rates for steamers and sailing ships on the berth are unchanged. Homeward chartering continues dull.

Per STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Hiogo: 40s. weight, 40s. meat. To Nagasaki: 50s. weight, 50s. meat. To Shanghai: 35s. weight, 35s. meat. To Hankow: 45s. weight, 50s. meat. To Hong Kong: 35s. weight 35s. meat. To Singapore: 35s. weight, 30s. meat. To Penang: 35s. weight, 30s. meat. To Colombo: 30s. weight or meat. To Batavia: 60s. meat. To Samarang: 70s. meat. To Sourabaya: 70s. meat.

Per SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama: 30s. weight, 30s. meat. To Hiogo: 30s. weight or meat. To Shanghai: 25s. weight, 20s. meat. To Hong Kong: 25s. weight, 20s. meat. To Singapore: 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Batavia, Samarang, and Sourabaya: 20s. to 25s. weight, 25s. to 30s. meat. To Colombo: 25s. weight, 22s. 6d. meat.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Lyne, per keel—To Yokohama: £30. To Shanghai: £30. To Hong Kong: £25. To Bangkok: 24s. To Singapore: £20. To Penang: 20. To Colombo: £20. To Galle: £20. To Batavia and Sourabaya: £24.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama: 20s. To Shanghai: 30s. To Hong Kong: 26s. 6d. To Manila: 25s. To Singapore: 24s. To Penang: 24s. To Colombo: 21s. To Galle: 23s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 25s. To Macassar: 25s. To Padang: 25s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong: 20s. To Shanghai: 25s. To Singapore: 16s. To Batavia and Sourabaya: 18s. To Galle: 17s.

THE NEDERLAND COMPANY'S steamer Celebes, Captain C. A. Bakker, sailed from Southampton on the 18th inst. for Padang, Batavia, &c., calling at Naples, with the Netherlands mails, 52 passengers, 106 Dutch troops, and a full general cargo.

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LIST OF AGENTS.

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A few lines in explanation of the specimen will be required to accompany it.

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Khiva	2,609	450	Jan. 3	Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.
*Surat	3,141	530	Jan. 10	Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan and Australia.
Kashgar	2,621	450	Jan. 17	Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.

* Taking passengers for Bombay also by branch steamer from Suez.

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Steamers.	Class.	Tons.	Horse-power.	Filling.
Glenroy	A1	2,121	250	Dec. 24
Glenfulas	A1	2,120	330	Jan.
Glenartney*	A1	2,106	330	Jan.
Glenengles	A1	2,800	530	To follow
Glenlyon	A1	2,119	275	To follow
Glenearn	A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenlyle	A1	1,676	200	To follow
Glenloch	A1	2,126	275	To follow
Glenorchy	A1	2,788	400	To follow
State of Louisiana	A1	1,869	210	To follow
State of Alabama	A1	2,313	330	To follow

* Also Yokohama and Hiogo.

For terms of Freight and Passage apply to MCGREGOR and Co., No. 1, East India-avenue, London, E.C.

 **BLUE DIAMOND LINE.**—The following high-classed Vessels will be despatched as under:—

Destination.	Vessel.	Class.	Tons.	Date.	From
Shanghai	Vale of Nith	A1	697	With des.	Antwerp
Shanghai	Hecla	3/3 1.1	867	Sailed.	Antwerp
Shanghai	Clipper ship	A1	—	Jan. 16	London
Honolulu and Port	Hertfordshire	A1	855	Suited.	Liverpool
Portland, Or.	—	—	—	—	—
Honolulu	Clipper ship	A1	—	To follow	Liverpool

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Penang, Singap.	Prinz	100 A1	1121	Jan. 5
Hong Kong, Yokohama, & Hiogo...	Friedrich	100 A1	1121	Jan. 5
Do. do. ...	Carl, s.s.	100 A1	1121	Jan. 5
Do. do. ...	Oxfordshire	100 A1	1228	To follow
Do. do. ...	Burmese	206 A1	1269	To follow

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KONING DER NEDERLANDEN, 3,000 tons, Jan. 8.
PRINSES AMALIA, 3,600 tons, Jan. 29.

Fares:—First Class, £65; Second Class, 25s.

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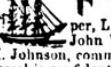
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Tons	Brokers.	To Sail.
2,121	Macgregor, Gow, & Co.	Dec. 24
3,347	Thos. Skinner & Co.	Dec. 24
1,121	Norris & Joyner	Jan. 5
693	Wright, Bros. & Co.	Jan. 5

LIVERPOOL.

Anchises, s.s. | Alfred Holt | Dec. 27
Ulysses, s.s. | Alfred Holt | Jan. 4

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Coupons must be left three clear days for examination previous to payment.

Oriental Bank Corporation, London, Dec. 15 1877.

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